

FROM: THE CALIFORNIA FACULTY ASSOCIATION
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CFA HEADLINES

March 25, 2008 • Weekly news digest from CFA

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THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

• CAMPUS BUDGET MEETINGS ATTRACT THOUSANDS, MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES

CFA's participation in broad-based meetings to organize opposition to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal of a 10% across-the-board cut of the state budget has helped attract huge crowds on campuses throughout the state. Thousands of Californians have signed up to support the lobbying efforts of the new Alliance to Save the CSU.

Our message is clear and realistic: we can stop this disastrous and short-sighted attempt by the governor to undermine the state's investment in accessible public higher education, the engine of the California economy.

Last summer we succeeded, virtually overnight, in rolling back a contemplated 1% budget reduction. That successful history fuels hope for success in this even higher-stakes fight.

On every campus, CFA spokespeople—along with students, campus presidents and other administrators, staff unions, alumni and supporters without direct CSU constituencies—make the point that the CSU system turns out the majority of our engineers, nurses, teachers and other key professionals. Every dollar spent in the CSU gets returned four-fold, and the return on investment grows as high as 17-fold from the economic stimulus and tax generation over the course of CSU graduates' careers.

Over the past week more than 1,000 people have attended each of the Fight Back Budget Meetings on the campuses in San Diego, Sacramento and San Francisco. Crowds overflowed the halls at Fullerton today and Humboldt yesterday.

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• **GROWING CROWDS ADD TO MOMENTUM TO STOP THE CUTS**

At noon tomorrow, Wednesday, March 26, the biggest rally yet is expected outdoors at the Speakers' Platform next to the Student Union at Long Beach State, where more than 2,000 participants are poised to spread the word that the CSU is the solution to the state economy's ills.

The CSU Channel Islands meeting will be held at noon Thursday, March 27, at the Petit Salon. Next week features Los Angeles, San Jose, Bakersfield, Pomona and Chico. In addition to those noted above, meetings have already taken place at Dominguez Hills, San Marcos, San Luis Obispo, Fresno, San Bernardino, East Bay, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Maritime Academy, Stanislaus, Humboldt, Fullerton and Sonoma.

The complete schedule is at <http://www.alliancefortheesu.org/activities.html>

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• **JOIN THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CSU**

CFA wants to see you at the meetings—but if you can't make them in person, you can still get involved.

The Alliance for the CSU website, <http://www.alliancefortheesu.org>, has sign-up forms, a tool for forwarding our appeal to friends, relatives and neighbors, and talking points and other background. Check it out!

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• WHAT THE ALLIANCE NEEDS YOU TO DO

It's important to understand the steps in the state budget process and precisely how you can act most effectively to promote the Alliance cause and build public support for our position that "the CSU is the solution."

The governor has issued an initial budget proposal. It is only that—both preliminary and a proposal. The next step will be some time in early May, when the governor evaluates the latest tax receipts and releases what is known as the "revise." We are mobilizing, first, to persuade the governor that he should restore CSU funding in the revise.

That means that our priority right now is *building the Alliance network* by signing up Californians from all walks of life, from every region of the state, by the hundreds of thousands. We need the most muscular database we can amass of people who, in three weeks or so, will receive action alerts, on short notice, to make phone calls, send faxes and emails, and speak with one voice at the moment of peak importance.

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• EDITORIALS ASSAIL BUDGET CUTS

Newspapers from across the political spectrum continue to reinforce the Alliance's position on the CSU's central role in the state's civic life and economic health.

"**We must invest in our future,**" was the headline over a March 21 editorial in the *San Bernardino Sun*. CSU San Bernardino and sister institutions, the *Sun* added, "are **economic drivers, not drains on the state budget.**"

For this and other coverage, see CFA In the News, <http://www.calfac.org/inthenews.html>

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• TV NEWS AND YOUTUBE REACH MILLIONS

Local television news broadcasts have brought images and words of the Alliance for the CSU's meetings to millions. In addition, the Alliance has a page at YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/alliancefortheesu>, with links to some of the video of Budget Fight Back Meetings. The current featured video is from Dominguez Hills on March 3, with others from Sacramento, Northridge, Fresno and San Marcos.

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POLITICS AND LEGISLATION

• APRIL 2 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET HEARING NEXT STEP IN FIGHT AGAINST GOVERNOR'S 10% MEAT CLEAVER

John Travis, chair of the CFA Political Action/Legislative Committee, is prepared to take our case for reversing the governor's across-the-board budget cuts to the Capitol next Wednesday, April 2.

Travis will be on hand at a hearing of the California State Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2 (Education Finance), chaired by Assemblymember Julia Brownley.

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• CFA DEVELOPS 2008 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The CFA Political Action/Legislative Committee has sent for the consideration of the CFA Board of Directors recommendations for the union's 2008 legislative agenda.

Several pieces of legislation are under consideration and CFA's position on them will play out as events this spring unfold. At this point the committee has recommended the continued sponsorship of Sen. Gloria Negrete McLeod's correction of an inequity in how reduced-pay leaves of absence are calculated for purposes of service credit for retirement.

This bill, now known as Senate Bill 1611 (a reintroduction of last year's SB 259, which the governor vetoed), would ensure that CSU faculty receive their full CalPERS service credit when they take reduced-pay leaves (such as sabbaticals) longer than six months.

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OTHER NEWS

• GARAMENDI TO SPEAK AT CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING

Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, a good friend of and Trustee for the CSU, will be among the advocates for public higher education addressing the implications of the current budget crisis at the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) in Sacramento, March 25-26.

Garamendi will be joined by Assemblymember Julia Brownley; San Mateo Community College District Chancellor Ron Galatolo, and two researchers for the College Board.

Garamendi said he will focus his remarks on the issue of college affordability and student access. “We have seen a dramatic shift in our state’s priorities over the past decade, reducing state funding for higher education and balancing the state’s budget on the backs of our students.”

He continued: “Sadly, this path takes our state in the wrong direction—creeping down the road to privatization by shifting the cost of higher education from the public at large to students and their families.”

CPEC is the body that advises the governor and the legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 26

CSU Long Beach, Budget Fight Back Meeting, Noon, Speakers’ Platform (next to Student Union)

Thursday, March 27

CSU Channel Islands, Budget Fight Back Meeting, 12-12:50 pm, Petit Salon

Monday, March 31

Cesar Chavez Day, CFA Offices closed

Wednesday, April 2

Cal State Los Angeles, Budget Fight Back Meeting, 12-2 pm, Golden Eagle Ballroom

San Jose State, Budget Fight Back Meeting, 12-1 pm, Student Union Ballroom

April 3

CSU Bakersfield, Budget Fight Back Meeting, 10:30-11:30 am, Icardo Center (gym)

April 8

Cal Poly Pomona, Budget Fight Back Meeting, 12-1 pm, Student Speech Area ("The Pancake")

CSU Chico, 10:30 am, Selvester's (on campus)

April 12-13

68th CFA Assembly, Los Angeles

For more info contact your CFA Campus Chapter

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