

From the California Faculty Association

cfa@calfac.org or <http://www.calfac.org>

July 1, 2008 - Weekly news digest from CFA

THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- New fiscal year begins without a state budget
- Faculty conduct legislative visits

THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CSU

- Dominguez Hills Alliance meets with Carson Chamber of Commerce
- Stanislaus Alliance to hold sign ups at 4th of July event
- East Bay Alliance meets with Hayward city council

OTHER NEWS

- New GI bill doubles higher education benefits to veterans

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THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- NEW FISCAL YEAR BEGINS - NO BUDGET IN SIGHT

The state entered a new fiscal year today without a state budget.

With legislative gridlock still rampant in Sacramento, the “Big 4” legislative leaders – Senate Pro Tem Don Perata, Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, Assembly Republican leader Mike Villines and Senate Republican leader Dave Cogdill - met Sunday and released a statement which said in part: “We are continuing to work on a bipartisan budget that moves California forward...”

This can be translated loosely to mean: don't hold your breath on getting a budget anytime soon.

During these continued budget discussions CFA will remain proactive in advocating for full 'compact' funding.

The message to lawmakers during this time is: while the restoration of more than \$97 million to the CSU in the Governor's May budget revision – due in no small part to the advocacy efforts of the Alliance for the CSU – was a major step towards protecting our state university system, the \$386 million in total proposed cuts could still cripple the state's economic infrastructure and undermine future revenue.

- FACULTY VISIT LEGISLATORS ON BUDGET

In the absence of progress between lawmakers on a finished budget, CFA activists continue to work with other groups in the Alliance for the CSU to deliver the message to legislators in their home districts that the CSU is the solution to California's economic problems.

During the month of June faculty delegations from Bakersfield, Dominguez Hills, Humboldt, Long Beach and Pomona each conducted visits to their local legislators to explain why the \$386 million shortfall below the promised Compact funding and fee increases are still a bad idea for California's economy and future overall.

More visits will be conducted in the weeks to come.

To join a delegation making legislative visits this summer, contact the CFA chapter on your campus or write to: info@alliancefortheesu.org

THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CSU

- DOMINGUEZ HILLS ALLIANCE MEETS WITH CARSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Alliance for the CSU continues to reach out to local business and elected leaders to let them know that the CSU is the solution to California's troubled economy.

In mid June, CFA Associate Vice President-South David Bradfield attended a breakfast meeting with Assemblymember Warren Furutani, Carson Mayor Jim Dear and several members of the Carson Chamber of Commerce to discuss the ongoing efforts of the Alliance.

Bradfield reports that at the meeting Furutani spoke on the importance of higher education funding and both he and Dear wore their Alliance pins.

Following the event several members of the Chamber of Commerce volunteered to join the Alliance and signed Alliance cards.

CFA and its allies in the Alliance will continue to seek out this sort of community interaction and assistance throughout the summer.

- STANISLAUS ALLIANCE TO TABLE 4TH OF JULY

On Friday, the Stanislaus chapter of the Alliance for the CSU will be simultaneously celebrating the Fourth of July and raising awareness of potential state budget cuts to the CSU.

Members of the chapter will table at the school's "Fantastic Fourth" of July celebration – one of the largest Independence Day celebrations in the Central Valley – and sign attendees up to join the Alliance for the CSU.

Tabling will take place from 5 pm to 8:30 pm on the sidewalk area at the northwest and southwest end of the campus amphitheatre.

To volunteer to be part of this event contact the school's CFA chapter office, contact information for which can be found at: <http://calfac.org/chapters.html>

To learn more about the "Fantastic Fourth" celebration, go to: <http://www.csustan.edu/Fantastic4th/>

- EAST BAY ALLIANCE ATTENDS HAYWARD STREET PARTY AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the CSU East Bay chapter of the Alliance for the CSU attended the monthly Hayward Street Party last week where they signed up several groups and local organizations as Alliance members. The Mayor of Hayward, Michael Sweeney, who signed an Alliance card, invited the delegation to attend the Hayward City Council on Tuesday, June 24th to make a pitch about the Alliance.

Members of the Alliance, Kellie Trauner and staff representative Maureen Loughran, made a brief presentation and several council members signed Alliance cards. Alliance members will seek to follow these efforts up by getting a resolution passed supporting the CSU's budget fight.

OTHER NEWS

- NEW GI BILL DOUBLES HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS TO VETERANS

On Monday President Bush signed legislation to approve the new "21st century G.I. Bill" which will provide a new level of college aid and benefits for military service members and veterans.

The bill – which is sponsored by possible vice presidential candidate Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) – more than doubles the value of benefits veterans are eligible to receive from \$40,000 to \$90,000. The bill also provides for full in-state tuition and fees for enrollment in a public college, a monthly housing stipend and \$1,000 per year for books and supplies.

Veterans who have served at least three years of active duty since Sept. 11, 2001 will be eligible to receive benefits from the bill.

To learn more, go to: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4, Fri

Independence Day. CFA offices closed.

July 15, Tue

CSU Board of Trustees meeting. 401 Golden Shore, Long Beach.

July 24-27, Thur-Sun

AAUP Summer Institute

Kingston, Rhode Island

For more information, go to: <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/about/events/SI/>

August 8-10, Fri-Sun

COCAL International conference (see above)

Register online at <http://www.cocal-ca.org/viii/confhome.htm>

(Early bird fee before June 30)

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