

From the California Faculty Association
cfa@calfac.org or <http://www.calfac.org>

CFA HEADLINES

November 18, 2008 · Weekly news digest from CFA

CSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

- Alliance for the CSU says: “Cuts Have Consequences”
- Trustees to approve 2009/10 budget request

THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- CFA President sends letter to Gov. in opposition to budget cuts
- Send an email describing the consequences of cuts
- PPIC Annual Study: Californians cite costs and budget cuts as biggest problems in Higher Ed
- LAO: State could face \$20 B a year deficit through 2014
- Students rock for higher education funding (w/link to youtube clip)

THE FACULTY CONTRACT

- CFA/CSU hold bargaining session

OTHER NEWS

- Send suggestions for new legislation

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CSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

- FACULTY TELL THE STATE: “CUTS HAVE CONSEQUENCES”

Nearly 500 faculty members, staff, and students descended upon Long Beach Tuesday to make clear to the state’s leadership that budget cuts to the CSU have consequences.

As the Trustees conducted their meetings inside, CSU community members – clad in white Alliance for the CSU t-shirts – crowded the patio outside the Chancellor’s office to march, chant and sign faxes to the governor opposing his proposed additional \$66 million mid-year budget cut.

The assembled group listened as faculty, students and staff shared their own stories the show how the recent budget cuts have damaged the quality of education at CSU campuses.

Gary Ivey, a scientific equipment technician who was recently laid off from his position at CSU Bakersfield, said that aside from losing his job, these cuts mean that students “do not have access to current scientific equipment for science lab classes.” Ivey stated, “California needs more scientists and nurses and other health professionals who are well trained and up to date. Cutting back in the sciences is bad for our students, bad for Bakersfield where I live, and bad for California.”

CSU East Bay student Sherrie Canedo, a senior and Ethnic Studies major, expected to graduate this year until many of the required classes she needs to graduate were cut as a result of the budget cuts. “I was supposed to graduate in May, but now I am forced to stay until, at least, next fall when hopefully, the classes I need will be offered. But there are no guarantees.”

Having heard these and a dozen similar heartbreaking stories, CFA President Lillian Taiz called on Gov. Schwarzenegger to rethink additional budget cuts to the CSU.

“The Governor is slamming shut the door on the promise of a quality higher education for an entire generation of students,” said Taiz. “This is absolutely unacceptable for California families who have been promised access to a quality, affordable higher education. Even worse, this will have devastating effects on California’s economy.”

During a break from their meeting, the CSU Trustees including Board Chair Jeffrey Bleich, Lt. Governor John Garamendi – an ex-officio CSU Trustee – and Chancellor Charles Reed joined the assembled crowd on the patio outside to send a strong message that the Alliance remains unified in its pursuit of the necessary funding for the system.

- TRUSTEES TO APPROVE 2009/10 BUDGET REQUEST

On Wednesday, the CSU Board of Trustees will vote on a budget request for the system’s 2009/10 academic year.

This request is likely to include \$341.2 million from the state’s General Fund (the minimum needed to fully fund the CSU Compact) and includes \$86.9 million in revenue to avoid a 10 percent student fee increase.

In addition, the CSU Administration will propose a \$116.7 million Compact recovery for revenues that were not received from the state in the 2008-09 fiscal year.

A key element to the budget request is the appeal to the Governor for additional funding to backfill the CSU’s coffers from what was cut this year. CFA has long

advocated for the Trustees to request funding to make up for losses in previous years so that the cuts to the system are not compounded each year.

A third component of the budget request is funding above the minimal Compact level of \$153.5 million for a number of needed measures, including an increase in the ratio of tenured and tenure-track faculty.

The total augmentation to the CSU budget would be \$611.4 million.

To learn more, go to: <http://calstate.edu/budget/2009-2010/>

THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- CFA PRESIDENT SENDS LETTER TO THE GOV. OPPOSING BUDGET CUTS

Last week CFA President Lillian Taiz, a professor of History at CSU Los Angeles, sent a letter to the Governor adamantly opposing the \$66 million mid-year budget cut proposed by the Governor as part of a special legislative session to tackle the state's growing budget deficit.

The letter states in part:

"No one questions the severe fiscal crisis that California is facing, and no area of the budget is immune to our state's budget shortfall. However, the CSU has already been cut \$215 million from its workload budget this year, with another \$31.3 million in mid-year cuts already occurring due to a DOF (Dept. of Finance) request.

"These most recent cuts are in addition to the more than a half-billion dollars in general fund cuts the state inflicted on the CSU five years ago – cuts from which the CSU has never recovered. In fact, when accounting for inflation, the CSU's general fund budget today is actually several hundred million dollars below state funding levels the CSU received in 2002

To view the full letter, go to http://calfac.org/budget_menu.html

- SEND EMAIL DESCRIBING HOW "CUTS HAVE CONSEQUENCES"

In order to make clear to the Chancellor and the general public the severity of these proposed cuts, CFA seeks your stories about what these budget cuts mean to you, your students and your campus.

Please write us at: CutsHaveConsequences@calfac.org

CFA is compiling these stories to substantiate to administrators, lawmakers and media outlets just how dire these cuts are to the CSU.

- PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS SEE COST, BUDGET CUTS AS BIGGEST PROBLEMS FACING HIGHER ED

Last week the Public Policy Institute of California issued a report on Californian's attitudes about the state's public higher education.

The report finds that Californians admire and strongly support their state colleges and universities and are dismayed and disappointed in a Governor and state legislature who seem unable to preserve it, or even fund it.

To view the PPIC report, go to: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=848>.

- LAO: STATE FACES \$20 BILLION A YEAR BUDGET DEFICIT THROUGH 2014

The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) warned last week that if no action is taken on the state budget, California will face a staggering \$27.8 billion budget deficit next year, with annual shortfalls exceeding \$20 billion a year through the summer of 2014 and perhaps longer.

"The state's revenue collapse is so dramatic and the underlying economic factors are so weak that we forecast huge budget shortfalls through 2013/14 absent corrective action," the report says. "From 2010/11 through 2013/14, we project annual shortfalls that are consistently in the range of \$22 billion."

The LAO says it is imperative that the Legislature attack the budget problem aggressively, making permanent improvements to the state's fiscal outlook.

To view the LAO report in full, go to: <http://www.lao.ca.gov/>

- STUDENTS ROCK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Students at San Jose State held a concert last week to protest planned budget cuts to the CSU system and raise awareness of the crisis confronting students during this fiscal downturn.

To view a video of news coverage of the event, go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SolR_KernNA

THE FACULTY CONTRACT

- CFA, CSU HOLD INITIAL BARGAINING SESSION

The CFA Bargaining Team met with the CSU administration's team Monday to begin reopener negotiations on the raises scheduled in the faculty contract for the 2008/09 academic year.

Monday's session opened with the CSU administration's bargaining team making an unacceptable initial proposal of: 0% general salary increase (GSI), 0% service step increase (SSI) and 0% for Year Two of the equity pay program.

The Administration's justification for the offer was that there are "competing demands" on the CSU budget and so there is nothing in it for the faculty; it appears that at this juncture the Administration's priorities do not include the faculty.

The CFA bargaining team – chaired by John Travis – quickly communicated back that a proposal of 0-0-0 is a "non-starter."

CFA's bargaining team then introduced its opening proposal. Noting that state funding for the CSU is about 10% less than expected, the team counter-proposed that faculty take an equitable share of the pain by delaying implementation of the GSI by 3 months. This would reduce the negotiated pay increase by roughly 10% for this year.

The administration rejected that proposal.

The two sides have scheduled future bargaining meetings this fall.

To learn more about reopener bargaining, please view the frequently asked questions page at: http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/bargaining/Q&A_100808.pdf

OTHER NEWS

- SEND SUGGESTIONS FOR LEGISLATION

The CFA's Political Action/Legislation Committee is taking suggestions from faculty members on legislation to pursue in 2009.

If you have a proposal, please fill out the form at http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/Legislation/LegSuggestions_2009.pdf and submit it to CFA's Statewide Sacramento office by Friday, December 5.

If you have questions, please contact PA/Leg Committee Chair John Travis at jtravis@calfac.org or Legislative Director David Balla-Hawkins at dhawkins@calfac.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 26-28, Wed-Fri

Thanksgiving break, CFA offices closed

December 5-6, Fri-Sat

CFA Board of Directors meeting *Los Angeles

**Please note this meeting will not take place in Sacramento as indicated in the CFA pocket calendar*

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