



California Faculty Association

400 Capitol Mall, Suite 1950 Sacramento, CA 95814 • gro@calfac.org • (916) 441-4848

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Contact: Alice Sunshine
(510) 384-1967

Gov's budget won't stop higher education bleeding

Leaders of the California Faculty Association, which represents the 20,000 faculty of the California State University, say the CSU will continue to suffer from inadequate funding if the governor's proposed budget released today is approved.

"The governor says he has stopped the bleeding. But by underfunding the CSU he is slashing access to college for thousands of qualified students. This budget doesn't heal the CSU," said CFA President John Travis, who listened to the governor release his budget Monday afternoon.

"CFA calls on the Legislature to ensure that all eligible students have access to an quality education in the CSU in 2005/06."

Travis added: "This budget year the CSU closed the door on 10,000 qualified students. The governor's new proposed budget would throw the dead bolt on the door and stop thousands more high school graduates from getting a degree from the CSU."

Additional fee increases outlined in the governor's budget provide almost \$76 million in additional revenue for the CSU, but will make it harder for the working students to attend college.

"The governor is raising taxes on the students and calling them fees," Travis said. "This is not responsible and undermines the affordability of the CSU."

The governor's \$115.5 million CSU budget would:

- Allot 3 percent increase in base funding totaling \$71.7 million;
- Allot 2.5 percent for enrollment growth at \$50.8 million; and
- Rescind \$7 million for enrollment and outreach that was funded last year.

CFA's research shows the CSU will need another 1.5 percent increase for enrollment growth. This will admit 4,800 additional students to the CSU. Also, the university would need an additional 1.5 percent in the base budget (about \$30 million) to ensure the students who are able to enroll in the CSU get the classes and the quality of instruction they need.

"The objective is to ensure a bright future for the young people of California," Travis continued. "The CSU and all of public higher education is what makes this state an innovative leader and one of the largest economic players in the world."

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