



## ***News from CFA*** *California Faculty Association*

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Representing the faculty of the California State University

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### **GOV.'S ADDRESS PAYS LITTLE HEED TO HIGHER ED NEEDS**

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's State of the State address Wednesday evening made clear that broad access to affordable, quality public higher education is not on his priority list.

His address suggests that the 2005/06 state budget he will propose next week will not offer the funding needed to rebuild the California State University system after years of deep cuts — more than half a billion dollars during the last two budget years alone.

Although statehouse observers say they believe the governor will honor the nonbinding compact to fund higher education adopted via a handshake with the CSU chancellor last May, leaders of the California Faculty Association point out the compact merely locks the CSU into inadequate budgets for the foreseeable future.

"The compact doesn't even call for enough money to accept the qualified students who want to enter the CSU this September," said CFA President John Travis, a political science professor at Humboldt State University. "And the Compact does nothing to reach the 10,000 students the CSU turned away this academic year."

***CFA will provide an analysis of the CSU portion of the governor's proposed state budget on the day of release. CFA President John Travis will be available to the news media for comment on that day. Please call Alice Sunshine, CFA communications director, at (510) 384-1967 to speak with him.***

On other issues raised in the State of the State address, CFA noted the weight of the governor's budget cuts fall on the pay, benefits and job security of teachers and other public employees. In particular, the proposal for merit pay galls teachers.

"No one teaches to make a lot of money," said Travis. "Maybe merit pay works in sales, but a bonus doesn't motivate teachers to teach 'better' or teach 'faster.' It just discourages teachers from taking on the challenge of helping the students who need the most attention while introducing a huge potential for bias in how teachers get paid."

CFA found that the proposal to privatize public employees' pension plans mirrors the proposal by President Bush to privatize Social Security.

"Gutting the pension benefits of teachers, firefighters and other public workers does nothing to solve the current fiscal crisis. But there's plenty to show that private investment companies will make a killing off the fees they collect for making the investments. It's a bad proposal," said Travis.

CFA also noted at least two broken promises in the address. In the process of settling last year's budget, the governor promised public employees he would not disrupt their pension plans, and he promised K-14 teachers the full restoration of funding for their schools this year. The proposals in his speech reneged on those promises.

For more information from CFA on the state budget and related issues please see CFA's Web site at [www.calfac.org/rebuildCSU.html](http://www.calfac.org/rebuildCSU.html).

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