

For Immediate Release
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CSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES GIVES 28 TOP EXECES A RAISE DESPITE
PLEAS FROM FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, LEGISLATORS AND LT. GOV.
JOHN GARAMENDI TO NOT VOTE ON EXECUTIVE PAY UNTIL GOVERNOR
DECIDES ON REFORM LEGISLATION

-- Lavish Raises for CSU Executives Come at the Same Time Student Fees
Have Just Been Raised by 10% --

Long Beach – The California State University Board of Trustees approved an average 12% pay increase for top executives Wednesday despite warnings from faculty, students, staff and state political leaders that the increase could bring upheaval to the system.

This most recent pay hike brings the total salary increases given to CSU executive to 34.7% between 2005 and 2007. These raises come at a time when CSU compensation practices are being audited by the state and student fees have doubled over the last 5 years.

California Faculty Association President Lillian Taiz addressed the Trustees stating, "Your actions today make it very clear that executive salaries are the only issues this board seems determined to address. We wish you would find the same level of determination when dealing with skyrocketing fees and overcrowded classrooms that you do when providing executives raise."

Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, who is also an Ex-Officio Member of the CSU Board of Trustees, made a motion to table discussion of the salary hike until the next Trustees meeting – by which time the Governor must decide whether or not to sign two pieces of legislation to reform the CSU currently sitting on his desk.

The two pieces of reform legislation waiting for the Governor's signature - AB 1413 and SB 190 -- would ensure that discussions about executive pay and perks would be held publicly and that executives could not sneak in sweetheart deals at the expense of taking taxpayer dollars away from students in the classroom. AB 1413 would make sure there is actual work done for the money and limit the amounts execs could collect.

Trustee Ricardo F. Icaza noted during the meeting that, "In an era when we continue to raise student fees and classrooms are becoming more and more overcrowded it is absurd to consider a pay increase right now. Students are working multiple jobs trying to pay for their education."

Lt. Governor John Garamendi stated, "This is clearly tied to a student fee increase. I cannot think of a worse way to convey yourselves to the legislature

when you are going to have ask for more money in the budget process in the coming months.”

Meanwhile the California State Student Association (CSSA) Board of Directors – the group representing student from across the CSU – voted oppose the resolution at a meeting held in San Diego over the weekend.

“This is about smart spending on behalf of the CSU,” Adam Haverstock, Associated Students President at CSU Northridge told the Trustees Wednesday. “I would contest that it is neither timely nor appropriate to do this. To see that my money is being used increase executive salaries is just ridiculous.”

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