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CFA ANNOUNCES AB1413 ENDORSEMENTS

-- Reform Bill Would Bring an End to the CSU Administration's Abuse of Taxpayer Dollars --

Sacramento – Today the California Faculty Association released the names of organizations and individuals who have endorsed AB 1413, Assemblyman Anthony Portantino's education reform legislation that was introduced after the CSU Administration was caught wasting taxpayer dollars on six-figure sweetheart deals for departing executives and for paying executives six-figures for doing little or no work for the CSU. AB 1413 will improve the public dialogue, accountability and oversight of the CSU administration and Board of Trustees by placing restrictions on executive compensation payments, ensuring that executive contracts are made public, and allowing Board ex officios – the Governor, Lt. Governor, Supt. Of Public Instruction and Assembly Speaker – to designate a staff person to attend Trustee meetings to ask questions and give input if the ex officio is unable to attend.

AB 1413 has received endorsements from the following organizations and individuals:

American Association of University Professors President, Cary Nelson
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
Community College Association President Ron Norton Reel
California State University Employees' Association (CSUEA)
California Teachers Association (CTA)
Lt. Governor John Garamendi
The Greenlining Institute
California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Superintendent, Jack O'Connell
National Education Association (NEA)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Cary Nelson, national president of the American Association of University Professors, stated, "This legislation sheds needed light on the excessive compensation offered selected administrators in the California State University System. No public official should be able to take from the public till in secret. In its campaign for this legislation, the California Faculty Association has shown us instead how to combine organization with activism, how to take public action for the public good. The AAUP is proud of its long association with the CFA. They are a continuing source of inspiration for the rest of the country."

About AB 1413

AB 1413 permits the four elected ex officio members of the Board of Trustees –Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, and State Supt. of Public Instruction – to designate a staff person from their office to attend Trustee meetings in his or her absence solely to ask questions and provide input on behalf of the ex officio they represent, but without the authority to vote or attend closed session meetings.

Allowing ex officio members to have their staff represent them when they are unable to attend Trustee meetings will provide the Board of Trustees with increased expertise and help prevent the board from taking actions that are politically embarrassing to state policymakers or would unnecessarily waste taxpayer dollars.

To prevent the Board of Trustees from wasting millions of dollars on administrative perks – many who had “retired” from the CSU and earning six-figure salaries from other employers – AB 1413 establishes the following reasonable guidelines:

- œ Allow “transition pay” (payments to retiring executives) only for work performed, with the amount of payment not exceeding the salary level at the time of separation.

- œ Specify that executives provided “trustee professorships” receive compensation only for teaching, with the compensation not allowed to exceed the top pay for a CSU full professor.

- œ Require the Board of Trustees to approve all executive contracts in public session and to reveal all contract language addressing compensation and benefits, not just salary.

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