

For Immediate Release
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CALIFORNIA FACULTY ASSOCIATION RESPONDS TO STATE AUDIT OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY COMPENSATION POLICIES

Sacramento - Today, the California Bureau of State Audits released a comprehensive look at the compensation and oversight practices of the California State University. John Travis, the California Faculty Association's Political Action/Legislation Chair and Humboldt State University Professor of Political Science responded to the report, titled "California State University: It Needs to Strengthen Its Oversight and Establish Stricter Policies for Compensating Current and Former Employees."

"We are grateful that Speaker Fabian Núñez, Assemblywoman Lori Saldaña and Assembly Higher Education Committee Chairman Anthony Portantino called for this audit.

"The audit confirms everything CFA has been saying over the past several years about the California State University administration's proclivity to mismanage, especially in regard to executive pay and perquisites. It's not only a question of poor policies. The problems enumerated in the audit raise questions about the competency of the Chancellor's Office and its methodology in decision-making. The tendency is to rely on past practices, which have continued to fail.

"The audit demonstrates an unacceptable nonchalance about how the public's money is spent. This is typified by the so-called executive 'transition program,' which has required no discernible 'deliverables' to benefit the university.

"We are especially pleased that this audit has brought attention to the mystery that surrounds the 80 or so University 'Foundations' throughout the State. For years, CFA has asked the CSU for the details about these foundations - who runs them; where does the money go; who benefits from them? The CSU has refused to provide that information and now we know why:

these CSU foundations are using funds that should be going towards the classroom - for executive perks like kitchen remodels and tax relief payments.

"We are glad the Chancellor and his office want to address the issues raised in the audit and we would like to see a timetable by which action will be taken. In the Chancellor's response, we hear a lot about what they intend to do; we need action, beginning with the Board of Trustees meeting next week.

"Along with the legislature and others, we will be watching how the Chancellor's response develops. We hope the action will be substantive for the benefit of our students and the future of the university."

CFA will release a more in-depth analysis of the audit in the coming days.

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