

From the California Faculty Association

CFA HEADLINES

June 12, 2019 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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Great work CFA! Budget deal includes additional funding for CSU

Lawmakers have reached a budget deal that reinvests state funding in the California State University system, including funding that will expand student access to the CSU and fund additional tenure-line positions.

The Legislature's Conference Committee reached an agreement on the \$213 billion budget Sunday afternoon. Now, the budget package heads to the Assembly and Senate, where a vote is required by June 15. Gov. Gavin Newsom has until June 30 to sign the budget.



The budget deal includes CFA's proposal that \$35 million be designated for new tenure track faculty hiring and will include language regarding best practices for hiring diverse faculty. These funds should allow CSU campuses to hire at least 280 additional new faculty next year, in addition to what already had been planned.

The budget plan, which includes a tuition freeze, also adds \$85 million to increase access to the CSU. The funding will support at least 10,000 additional students gaining access to the CSU. Finally, the deal includes \$3 million to support mental health services in the CSU next year, and \$3.3 million for [Project Rebound](#), a program that helps formerly incarcerated individuals seek degrees in the CSU.

Faculty and students have been working tirelessly to signal the need for additional state funding for the CSU in recent years. From our research paper "[Equity, Interrupted](#)"—which highlighted the fact that funding for the CSU decreased over 30 years as our student population grew more racially diverse—to our budget advocacy work at the Capitol this spring, faculty and students have been unwavering in our commitment to increase state funding for the People's University. Our efforts have paid off with this year's budget, said CFA President Charles Toombs.

"For years, we have been doing more with less while trying to help our lawmakers realize that investment in the CSU is a down payment in the future of California. This budget deal is testament that our efforts have succeeded and hopefully signals a trend that will continue," Toombs said. "We are appreciative to Gov. Gavin Newsom and our legislative leaders for this budget, which includes significant resources that will increase the number of spots for qualified students in the CSU, and ensures that there are faculty and services in place to support them."

Gov. Newsom told [faculty and students at our CFA Lobby Day event](#) in April that CFA's engagement has, and continues to make, an impact on budget priorities.

"Over the last decade, we stopped investing in the system and as a consequence we have paid a big price. You brought that advocacy to the forefront, you've been there in every forum, at every critical occasion—I just want to congratulate you for that," Newsom said.

In a recent [editorial](#) for The Sacramento Bee, CFA Political Action & Legislation Chair Jennifer Eagan explained why allocating budget dollars to hiring additional faculty has a direct impact on graduation rates and students' experiences.

"As faculty in the classrooms, we know what it takes for students to be successful. Students succeed when they are able to enroll in the classes they need and when they have instructors available to mentor them throughout their time at the university," Eagan wrote.

For more on the budget deal, click [here](#).

In Other News...

TIME TO SPEAK UP: CFA activists will be at the CalPERS Board meeting on Monday, June 17 to urge the board to divest from private prisons running ICE detention centers.

CFA delegates passed a [resolution](#) in April at our 89th Assembly calling on CalPERS to divest from CoreCivic and the GEO Group, which run the largest family detention centers in the country and are engaged in human rights abuses. Of CalPERS' \$360 billion in investments, \$11.4 million is invested in CoreCivic and GEO Group.

CSU faculty are state employees; therefore many have pensions that are managed and administered by CalPERS.

CFA, along with a coalition of allies, is calling for CalPERS to divest from private prisons and all other funds linked to the prison industry.

Monday's meeting can be viewed via CalPERS' [YouTube channel](#).

INTERRUPTING RACISM, PORTLAND EDITION:

Faculty and CFA staff presented our anti-racism workshop on a national stage during a recent National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE).

The conference drew thousands to Portland, where CFA hosted a workshop titled "How to interrupt racism on your campus. Let's stop it!"

The workshop is one of several that CFA has developed in recent years in an effort to expand and deeply center our anti-racism and social justice transformation as a union. [Click here](#) to learn more.



RAISES ON THE HORIZON: Faculty salaries will see a boost in July thanks an agreement CFA secured as part of a contract extension.

CFA successfully negotiated the deal as part of that agreement with the CSU, which includes a 2.5 percent raise for all faculty on July 1. The raises will be included in August paychecks.

[Click here](#) to read more about the coming raises, and CFA's recent defense of faculty rights regarding academic freedom and intellectual property.

Links of the Week

Cal Poly faculty leaders call out administration over pay and management style

[The Tribune](#)

With the anticipated June 30 retirement of Provost Kathleen Enz Finken, the executive board of the Cal Poly Chapter of the [California Faculty Association](#) (CFA) believes it is an appropriate time to reconsider her seven-year legacy and, by extension, the legacy of the current university administration.

Here's how California can become a tuition-free college state

[LA Times](#)

"Many people must suffer from math and English deficiencies. They confuse "tuition-free" with "free college." Stuck in their minds is the false notion that if students don't pay tuition at public universities, they're getting a free ride. That's a flawed concept because it ignores the high costs of housing, books, parking and other expenses of living away from home."

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