



980 9th St, Suite 2250  
Sacramento CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 441-4848

For Immediate Release  
November 13, 2009

Contact: Lisa Cohen 310.395.2544  
Alice Sunshine, 510-384-1967

## **CSU FACULTY, STUDENTS TELL TRUSTEES: “STOP WRECKING OUR UNIVERSITY”**

*Faculty & Students to confront CSU Trustees about proposals to “restructure” the university; proposals that could dismantle Higher Education as we know it today*

- **WHEN:** Wednesday November 18, 2009
- **WHERE:** CSU Chancellor’s Office, 401 Golden Shore, Long Beach
- **TIME:** 9:30 am–Noon
- **WHAT:** Rally in opposition to “restructuring” of CSU campuses

Faculty members, students and staff will be on hand in force at the California State University Trustees meeting in Long Beach on Wednesday to bring attention to the growing practice of “academic restructuring” taking place on campuses throughout the CSU system.

“We are seeing academic programs being permanently cut for short-term gain,” said CFA President Lillian Taiz, a professor of History at CSU Los Angeles. “However, these cuts are a long-term loss for higher education and for society as a whole.”

Spurred on by continual state funding cuts to the CSU over the past decade, many campus administrators are now seeking to save money through the elimination or “restructuring” of core academic subject areas (music, languages, physics, life sciences & multicultural studies for example) that have come to comprise higher education as we know it today.

This process has been undertaken in varying ways and under a number of different aliases from campus to campus including “program planning,” “restructuring” and “prioritization” (as at CSU Dominguez Hills and Humboldt State). On some campuses, the changes include cutting back student admissions to their local campuses (as at San Diego State) or making extreme reductions in the number of faculty members (as at CSU Stanislaus).

Last month, an internal memo to the 23 CSU campus presidents and top administrators from CSU Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance Benjamin Quillian called for a “radical” change on every campus to find ways to cut academic offerings thereby saving money. “Budget reduction strategies must yield a fundamental transformation...” he wrote.

Taiz continued, “Our goal on Wednesday is to remind the Trustees and campus presidents that that they must work together with the faculty, our campus communities and the constituencies that we serve to make sure we are preserving the range of educational options and not making permanent destructive changes that undermine our mission to offer a broad university education.”

## **ALSO, THREE CSU CAMPUSES HOLD EVENTS NEXT WEEK**

Students and faculty will hold events at three California State University campuses next week to protest budget cuts and campus restructuring.

### **CSU SAN BERNARDINO \* STUDENT WALKOUT & MOCK TRUSTEES MEETING**

**Wed, Nov 18 \* 1-2:30 pm:** CSU San Bernardino students will walkout of classes and everyday activities and march to the Library Lawn to rally and witness a mock Board of Trustees meeting, which will include speeches from students and faculty. The walkout is in response to fee increases, furloughs, class cuts, cuts to enrollment, and the lack of leadership students have received over the years.

**When:** Wednesday Nov 18, at the same time as CSU Trustees meeting:  
1 pm: Walkout, 1:30 pm Mock Board of Trustees, 2 pm Student Skits.

**Where:** California State University, San Bernardino (5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, Ca. 92407), Pfau Library Lawn.

**Visuals:** Signs, chants, skits, and students signing up in support of AB 656.

**Contact:** Nathonas Duro (Student & Organizer of the event), 909-648-0400. More information is available on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/sqe.csusb?ref=name>

### **CSU LOS ANGELES \* 24 HOUR VIGIL**

**Empty Backpacks = Stolen Dreams, CalState LA Speaks Out!"**

**Mon & Tue, Nov 16-17 \* 24 Hours Noon-Noon:** On Monday Nov. 16 at Noon, students will assemble with other in the university community in front of the University Student Union for a 24-hour vigil which will include sign-making, Hip Hop performances, a speak out and a march to student housing and back.

The vigil ends Tuesday Nov 17 at noon with a rally to underscore how students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community have been affected by the unprecedented cuts at CSULA and to the Cal State system more broadly. The rally will close with a march to the campus President's office.

**Where:** California State University, Los Angeles. In front of the in front of the University Student Union.  
<http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/maps/cslamap.php>

**Visuals:** Hundreds of empty backpacks representing the "missing" students who have been turned away or had to leave school because of fee hikes and/or lack of classes, faculty who have been laid off, and classes that have been cancelled. At the evening vigil (after 10 pm), students will gather with candles. Hand-made signs, chanting, live performances and open mics.

**Who:** Members of the California Faculty Association and numerous campus student organizations.

**Contacts:** Faculty: Melina Abdullah 323-617-0475 or Alejandra Marchevsky 323-854-7074

### **CAL POLY POMONA \* STUDENT HOSTED TEACH-IN**

**"Education is a Human Right: Reclaiming the CA Master Plan for Higher Education!"**

**Thu, Nov 19, Noon-2 pm:** at Marketplace Quad (Just outside Marketplace food court)

[http://www.csupomona.edu/map/campus/central\\_campus\\_small.pdf](http://www.csupomona.edu/map/campus/central_campus_small.pdf)

**Visuals:** Painting exhibits by students about the budget cuts, banners, interactive exercises during the teach-in.

**Contact:** Student event organizers: Ruben Vazquez 562-659-5229 or Pati Guerra 323-202-3559