

From the California Faculty Association

CFA HEADLINES

January 31, 2018 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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Chancellor delays vote on tuition hike

Just a week after protest led the UC Regents to postpone a vote on student tuition hikes, CSU Chancellor Timothy White announced on Monday a decision to delay a similar vote of the CSU Trustees.

In [a statement posted to the CSU web site](#), he wrote: "Trustees will not be asked to raise tuition, if it becomes necessary, until at least May. This will allow all to gain a deeper understanding of the state's financial outlook, make our case to policymakers, and recognize the efforts undertaken to streamline operations across the university."

A proposal to raise in-state undergraduate tuition to \$5,970 a year was scheduled for discussion at the Trustees Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, and previous announcements suggested a vote would come at the Board's meeting in March.

"While this postponement is well advised," said CFA President Jennifer Eagan, "let's be clear that raising tuition on CSU students is never good policy in a public university, no matter when it's done."

The threat of a tuition hike comes in context of Governor Brown's 2018-19 State Budget Plan released January 10. He proposes to increase state funding for the CSU by \$92 million, which White pointed out in his [2018 State of the CSU speech](#) to CSU Trustees on Tuesday morning, does not even keep up with inflation.

White said funding increases over the past 10 years have only gotten CSU funding back to the dollar level before the recession without considering inflation or growing enrollment.

Related Link: [Study by California State Student Association](#) looking at student debt burden and financial aid

PHOTO: CSU students protested last year against using tuition increases to solve the CSU's funding needs.



CFA says Trustees must step up fight for needed CSU funding from governor, legislature

CFA followed up this week on a [January 4 open letter](#) to the Chancellor by telling CSU Trustees at their Jan. 30 meeting it is time to step up meaningful pressure on the legislature and governor. It is the one way the CSU can get the funds it really needs to live up to its mission.

Addressing the Trustees' Finance Committee, CFA Political Action & Legislation Chair Lillian Taiz called on Trustees and the Chancellor to try something different.

She said, "The report prepared for this committee could be lifted from almost any January meeting—that if we didn't get the amount we asked for, we ask for more, but if they don't give it to us, we dig more deeply into students' pockets or cut programs. Each time, the result has been the same. Tuition increased and programs were cut or starved."

Taiz challenged the notion, expressed in [Chancellor White's 2018 State of the CSU speech](#), that the time has passed for a no-tuition model in the public university. "We hope that all of us in this room want today's diverse student body to enjoy the same quality learning conditions enjoyed by white students in 1985," she said. "It is their civil right."

Stand Up? Fight Back?

Despite his doubts, White did call for action in his speech, saying, "With all due respect, I will say to elected leaders the moment to properly invest in the CSU is overdue," and "it's imperative to invest now...to fuel tomorrow."

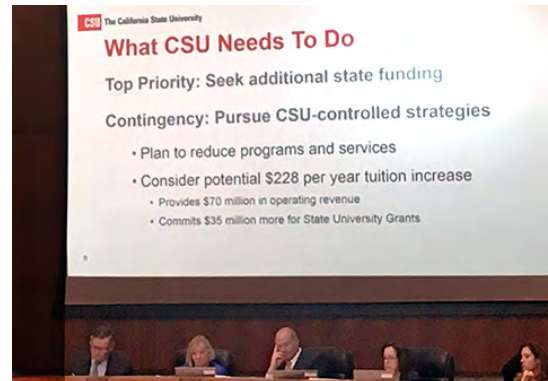
And in talking about 2018, he predicted: "There would be a fight, a fight for resources, for our values and our university as the most diverse and inclusive and consequential university in the nation."

Taiz said, "I am encouraged to hear the chancellor use the 'f' word—"fight back"—because what we need now is all hands on deck and a robust effort to persuade the legislature and the governor to increase our allocation."

Taiz told the Finance Committee, "If we limit our activity to walking politely through the halls of the Capitol, quietly knocking on doors, we won't succeed. Dramatic demonstration of the needs of the system will make us more visible and more of a priority in the legislature."

CFA Secretary Kevin Wehr followed up with comments to the Trustees' Government Relations Committee, pointing out that nowhere on the agenda was there discussion of a plan to advocate for more CSU funding from the legislature or governor.

Wehr said CFA is "calling for a more aggressive budgetary request and an action plan by the CSU administration." He added, "It is time to get serious, clean up your house, and take a strong stand on behalf of our students and those who wish to be our students.... There is no 'try.' There is only 'do.'"



In discussion, some Trustees on the Government Relations Committee entertained the idea of going to Sacramento to speak with legislators about CSU funding. See more in news reports in [“Links of the Week.”](#)

RELATED LINKS

- [See video of the January 2018 CSU Board of Trustees meeting](#)
- [CFA's Equity Interrupted study](#) shows a decline in state funding as the CSU student body became more diverse

PHOTOS: (Top) A powerpoint displayed at the Trustees' Finance Committee meeting directed the Board to pursue tuition increases and class cuts as their alternative to inadequate funding from the state. (Below, left) CFA member Kim Geron suggested at the Trustees' plenary on Jan. 31 that it is time to “think outside the box” and wage a campaign with “all the media and visibility we can muster” to find more revenue. (Below, right) Lillian Taiz and Kevin Wehr with Faculty Trustee Romey Sabalius in middle.

Legislative Hearing to take up “Closing the Degree Gap”

Most of us in public higher education know that California is not on pace to put enough college degrees in the hands of Californians. Studies say the state’s economy will feel it soon, and it won’t be possible to “import” enough college-educated people to solve it.

Next Tuesday, Feb. 6, the Assembly Higher Education Committee, chaired by Assemblymember José Medina and the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No 2 on Education Finance, chaired by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, will hold a joint hearing to explore “Closing the Degree Gap.”



Panels will include representatives from the UC, CSU and Community College administrations, as well as the [Public Policy Institute of California](#), which has produced some of the research describing the problem.

CFA will comment on the impact of too little funding provided for the CSU in the state budget, and what it will take to step up enrollment. CFA will note that the governor’s state budget plan for the coming year will not even support the students already in the CSU, much less enroll more. The current budget allocations mean tens of thousands of qualified students are being turned away from the CSU every year.

[Audio or video links to watch the hearing can be found here](#) as we get closer to Feb. 6

PHOTO: CFA members at CSU Fullerton have turned out on campus in regalia to signal their support for students and the importance of getting that degree.

In Other News

DACA RENEWALS STILL UNDERWAY—SEE LINKS FOR HELP: On January 9, [a federal judge temporarily halted Trump's termination of DACA](#), the program to protect young people brought to the U.S. as children, including thousands of CSU students. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is accepting renewal applications for DACA waivers and work authorizations from immigrants who had the status when the Trump administration issued its order on September 5. See a CSU [web page of resources specifically about the judge's order](#), [click here for resources by CSU campus](#), and [find additional resources on the CFA web site](#).

NORTHRIDGE CFA CHAPTER VP HONORED AT TRUSTEES MEETING: CSU Northridge CFA Chapter Vice President Ivor Weiner, a professor of Special Education, was honored with a CSU [Wang Family Excellence Award](#) at the CSU Board of Trustees this week. In his remarks accepting the award, he said, "I am humbled and honored to accept this award, and I give thanks to CFA and my CSUN CFA chapter for always leading the way in giving a voice to the voiceless." Northridge CFA Chapter President Nate Thomas also received the Wang Award, in 2015.



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WAS TURNED AWAY FROM THE CSU? They did the work in high school or community college. They got the grades. They were promised a seat in the CSU. But they were turned away. There are tens of thousands of qualified students who wanted to go to the CSU but were not admitted. CFA is interested in learning their stories. If you know such a student, please [ask him or her to go to https://www.calfac.org/pod/were-you-turned-away-csu](https://www.calfac.org/pod/were-you-turned-away-csu)

Faculty Rights Tip: Range Elevation Reminder

Range elevation is the process through which eligible Lecturers and temporary Librarians can increase their salaries by moving from one salary range to the next.

Normally, eligibility requires five years of service in current range and no Service Salary Increase (SSI) eligibility. Thanks to CFA's Bargaining Team, range elevation has been expanded so that long-term Lecturers, even if they have not maxed out SSIs, may be eligible too.

The administration must send you a notice so that you know that you are eligible to apply. But it is not automatic, as you must apply by the deadline set on your campus. Some deadlines are approaching very soon, and on some campuses the deadlines have passed. [Check your local campus policy](#) to find the deadline that applies on your campus.

If, for some reason, you are denied a range elevation there is a formal appeal process found in [Article 12.20](#) of our collective bargaining agreement

The appeal process has very short timelines and involves a peer-review panel. We recommend that if you are denied and wish to appeal that decision, [contact your CFA Chapter Faculty Rights Representative](#) immediately for advice on your appeal.

Here are some useful links to learn more about range elevation:



- [Range Elevation Resources](#)
- [Individual Campus Range Elevation Policies](#)

See [previous Faculty Rights Tips](#) on a range of topics in our contract.

If you have questions about a faculty rights tip or would like to suggest a tip [please write us](#) with the subject line "Faculty Rights Tip."

Links of the Week

Cal State trustees debate tuition increase, 'unsustainable' funding gaps at nation's largest public university system

[Los Angeles Times](#)

Some trustees raised the need for "real structural change." "We need a new approach. It seems crazy to me to run an institution of this size and complexity on this annual budgeting process... not knowing until June what money we're going to have for the next academic year," Trustee Jane W. Carney said. "A budget is a moral document that reveals what an institution or society really cares about," Kevin Wehr, California Faculty Association, said. "What is the board actually doing to resurrect a commitment to public higher education in California?"

Pushing for more state funds, Cal State threatens tuition hike but delays vote

[EdSource](#)

John Nilon, the alumni rep on the CSU board, on Tuesday criticized what he said was the governor's efforts to bolster the state's reserves at the expense of higher education. "The governor chooses to put those funds in a rainy day fund, thereby creating the rainy day for CSU," he said, referring to Brown's proposed budget putting more than \$5 billion surplus in rainy day and disaster funds. Nilon urged Cal State leaders, staff, students and families to push hard in Sacramento with a message "that tugs at their heart strings, that makes a difference to the governor and the Legislature."

CSU delays tuition increase vote

[The Sundial](#) (CSU Northridge)

"I have had friends that have literally been on the verge of homelessness and I have had other friends who decided not to go to college for this reason, because of the increases," Gabriel Lozano, Students for Quality Education said.

Governor Brown Proposed 2018-2019 Budget Met with Mixed Reviews

[L.A. Sentinel](#)

Jane Close Conoley, president, Long Beach State, had this to say, "As lawmakers deliberate on the budget proposal, it is important they fully understand the demand to gain access to an affordable, high-quality college degree is outpacing state investment in the California State University."

California v. Trump Immigration Battle: DACA, Raids, College Students

[Capital Public Radio News](#)

The UC and CCC Chancellors appeared with Calif. Attorney General Becerra to urge students who are DACA recipients to take advantage of what may only be a temporary window to renew their temporary status. CSU Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Loren J. Blanchard also appeared.

Homeless U: How Students Study and Survive on the Streets

[KQED The California Report](#)

"I don't remember what home feels like," said 24-year-old Ebony Ortega, an ethnic studies major at San Francisco State University. Ortega sleeps in her car, at friends' apartments or at secret spots on campus. "It's been quite some few years since I've felt like there's some sort of comfort, security and just stability," she added. "It's hard, it's really hard."

Fitzgerald: Overflowing CSUs should look to, not laugh at, Stockton

[Stockton Record](#)

The spokesman for the CSU system seemed to scoff at Stockton in [a recent interview](#), drawing a tart response from Assemblywoman Susan Eggman. The context is that CSUs overflowed last year. Universities rejected 31,000 qualified applicants. This all-time high argues, you'd think, for building more...

California Importing More College Graduates, But Not Keeping Up with Workforce Demands
[The California Report KQED](#)

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