CFA HEADLINES

October 4, 2017 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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CFA Members: Get ready to vote on Tentative Agreement

Preparations are underway for CFA members to vote online on the Tentative Agreement to extend the CSU faculty contract. That includes informational meetings sponsored by campus CFA Chapters to brief you on the details and answer your questions.

• See the day, time and place of the informational meeting on your campus

“It’s important that we all, as CFA members, express our voice with this ratification vote. This contract extension is good for faculty and we urge members to vote in favor of approving the Tentative Agreement,” says Kevin Wehr, CFA Secretary and chair of the union’s bargaining team.

“A vote to approve sends the message that our contract matters to all of us, that General Salary Increases and working groups on several issues are important to ensuring access to high quality public higher education,” Wehr says.

Wehr is among the many CFA officers and Bargaining Team members who are presenting at the campus CFA Chapter meetings.

The Tentative Agreement reached in late September with CSU management extends the faculty contract by two years through June 30, 2020. Across-the-board General Salary Increases are included in each year, among other provisions. Working groups made of CFA Bargaining Team members and management representatives will continue talks on contract provisions regarding academic freedom, intellectual property and long-range salary structure problems such as inversion and compression.

• See an FAQ about the Tentative Agreement
• Only CFA members vote. Join CFA now and you can vote on the Tentative Agreement
Take Action: As DACA deadline looms, tell the governor: ‘Sign AB 21 & AB 450’

CFA asks the CSU community to send a message to Governor Brown urging him to sign two Assembly Bills into law—AB 21: ‘Access to Higher Education for Every Student’ and AB 450 to regulate enforcement actions that could occur in workplaces, including college campuses.

These bills will ensure that undocumented students, faculty, and staff in the CSU, as well as in community colleges, get help to safely work on and complete their college educations on campus. The bills passed both houses of the California State Legislature.

• Send your message to the governor
• See details about AB 21 and about AB 450

Taking action to increase protections for undocumented students and staff is especially urgent as the deadline to renew DACA status arrives. Because of Pres. Trump’s order to end DACA, tomorrow October 5 is the last day those with expired waivers can submit renewal applications. Barring new action at the federal level, deportations of DACA recipients could begin in March and continue as their waivers expire. DACA (Delayed Action on Childhood Arrivals) recipients are people brought to the U.S. as children.

SEIU Call-In Day for DACA & TPS is October 5

On Thursday, October 5, CSU faculty are asked to join in a “National Call-In Day for Dreamers and TPS” sponsored by SEIU, a public workers union and CFA affiliate. TPS refers to residents with “temporary protected status” due to a humanitarian crisis in their home country, such as armed conflict. Together DACA and TPS apply to about 1.2 million people in the U.S.

“As you all know, this issue is personal for many in the SEIU family and we must take action to protect our brothers and sisters,” writes Marc M. Goumbri, of the SEIU Public Workers Dept. “Several SEIU members and family members have been targeted, arrested and detained because of their activism in the fight for immigrant rights.”

Here in the CSU, Cal State Los Angeles student Claudia Rueda, was arrested after helping to save her mother from deportation by speaking out publicly. Calls to and protests at the detention center in San Diego where she was held led to her release pending further action. Meantime, she is back in school.

Goumbri writes, “Please take a moment on October 5 to call your members of Congress and tell them to pass a clean Dream Act and save TPS.”

• Call 1-866-584-3962 to reach a service that will connect you with Congress
• Use hashtags: #SaveTPS, #CleanDreamAct and #HereToStay
• Help DACA recipients renew their waivers by October 5
CFA congratulates new Faculty Trustee Romey Sabalius

CFA congratulates the new faculty appointee to the CSU Board of Trustees—Romey Sabalius, a professor of World Languages and Literatures at San José State. He has served as a CFA leader on the San José CFA Chapter executive board along with Chapter President Rudy Preston, who said in a statement shared with CFA members:

“He is a person who can speak his mind clearly for what he believes is fair and just, and at the same time he is able to listen and consider what others have to say. I believe he will be a good advocate for our People's University, to ensure the faculty can make education succeed, and to help our students create a better life for themselves.”

The faculty Trustee is appointed to a two-year term by the governor who chooses among nominees proposed by the CSU’s statewide Academic Senate. Click here to see the governor's announcement.

PHOTO: Romey Sabalius (left) and Preston Rudy at a meeting of the San José CFA Chapter executive board after the “Fight for Five.”

Faculty Rights Tip: Flex Cash

Through the Flex Cash Plan (Article 32.13 in the Faculty Contract), faculty who waive CSU benefits because they have other non-CSU coverage can receive an additional $128 in compensation per month for waiving just medical benefits, $12 for waiving dental, and $140 for waiving both.

To participate, an employee must request participation and certify that s/he has alternate non-CSU insurance for the CSU insurance being waived. Faculty should speak with the benefits person in your campus Human Resources department to fill out the appropriate forms requesting participation.

REMINDER! DEADLINE TO CHANGE HEALTH INSURANCE IS THIS FRIDAY: Friday, October 6, 2017 is the last date of the CalPERS 2017 open enrollment period, during which employees can change health care benefits. Contact your campus Human Resources for more information about open enrollment.

Want to learn more? Become active with your local CFA chapter faculty rights team. Click here to find faculty rights advocates on your campus.

- 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.”
In Other News

LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON HATE SPEECH: CFA made public comment yesterday (October 3) at a hearing of the California State Senate Judiciary Committee that took testimony on “Combatting Hate While Protecting the Constitution.” Testimony came from UC Berkeley Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky and representatives of civil rights groups, the CSU administration, and law enforcement. [View the hearing on the California Channel.]

CFA-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR CALPERS BOARD WIN ELECTION: Early results (not yet certified by the Secretary of State) show CFA-endorsed candidate David Miller won CalPERS Board of Administration Position A with 63.71 percent of the votes cast. A runoff Election is to be held November 10 – December 11 for Position B. CFA-endorsed candidate Michael Bilbrey, incumbent, finished first and received just shy of 41% of the votes cast. See more details.

HOT OFF THE PRESSES & ON THE WEB: The Fall 2017 California Faculty magazine is now online, or request a print copy from your campus CFA Chapter office. Commentary on what does free public higher education really mean, the CSU’s growing mental health crisis, why Right to Work means Work for Less, understanding Equity and Equality, and much more.

Links of the Week

In Memorium

Woman who went to CSUB killed in Vegas mass shooting
[Bakersfield Now]
Melissa Ramirez attended California State University, Bakersfield

Las Vegas shooting victim
[Las Vegas Review-Journal]
Jordyn Rivera was a fourth-year student in the health care management program at California State University, San Bernardino

Scholars Renew Calls for U.S. to Fund Research on Gun Violence
[Inside Higher Ed]
Mass shooting in Las Vegas is latest incident to raise question of why federal agencies avoid studies that might illuminate policy.

Sonoma State to pay $2.9 million in asbestos case
[Santa Rosa Press Democrat]
Faculty members and staff who worked in a Sonoma State University office building that was the focus of a whistleblower trial over asbestos mishandling will each get a piece of more than $2.9 million in penalties handed down for violations of occupational health and safety laws.

SDSU community weighs in on search for university's next president
[fox5sandiego.com]
... faculty and staff lined up before a committee of CSU trustees to voice opinions on the qualities their next president should have.
Campuses Cautious As They Adjust To New Sexual Assault Guidelines  
NPR  
CSU Northridge says "Regardless of this new DOE action ... we will not waver in our commitment to Title IX and its protections."

Report shows Silicon Valley ‘crisis’ of homeless students  
San Francisco Chronicle  
Using a broad definition for counting, …more than a third of community college students in the county, as well as 17 percent of high school students, are so unstably housed they should be considered homeless.

U.S. college tuition is the highest in the world  
Salon  
While "one-third of countries do not charge tuition for public institutions," and 10 countries have public tuition costs that average less than $4,000 annually, getting a diploma from a public institution in the U.S. generally runs about $8,202 a year. The closest competitor on that front is Chile, where public college costs average $7,654 annually.

Congress Fails to Reauthorize Federal Perkins Loan Program — Here’s How It Could Impact Students  
Inside Sources  
… leaving the program for low-income students to expire.

The debt trap: how the student loan industry betrays young Americans  
The Guardian  
Among the 44 million Americans who have amassed our nation’s whopping $1.4tn in student loan debt, a call from Navient can produce shivers of dread.

Immigration crackdown taking heavy toll on California students  
EdSource  
… schools report increased absenteeism and students having difficulty concentrating, even crying in class.

Boston U Lecturers Reach First Contract Agreement  
Inside Higher Ed  
BU and its non-tenure-track lecturers reached a first contract agreement last week, averting a planned walkout next week.

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