

## From the California Faculty Association

### CFA HEADLINES

March 14, 2018 · Weekly news digest from CFA

- **Building to April 4: CFA, students speak out for the CSU at the Capitol**
- **Organizing for April 4: Students at Sac State hold teach-in with campus president**
- **April 4 #FreeTheCSU—New animation tells why, RSVP to get there**
- **Faculty Rights Tip: Personal Holiday**
- **In Other News**
- **Links of the Week**

### **Building to April 4: CFA, students speak out for the CSU at the Capitol**

In one of California's best fiscal years ever, it's time to fund the CSU.

That is the message that faculty and students are bringing to CSU campuses and to the State Capitol where the 2018-19 State Budget is being hammered out.

Building up to the [April 4 #FreeTheCSU Rally](#), faculty and students are organizing on CSU campuses, and working the halls and public hearings at the State Capitol.

Last week, CFA President Jennifer Eagan joined Chancellor Timothy White, Academic Senate Chair Christine Miller and California State Student Association President Maggie White at the Capitol to meet with Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon about the CSU's funding (see lower photo).

Governor Brown has proposed an increase of \$92 million over this fiscal year, less than inflation, and too little to avoid a tuition hike or preserve current class offerings.

#### **EAGAN, LEGISLATORS CALL FOR TUITION FREEZE, MORE CSU FUNDING**

This week, [Eagan addressed a news conference](#) where legislators, students and other faculty called for a freeze on CSU and UC tuition increases while adding much more funding for the CSU than the governor has proposed.

"We faculty want to support students but we have to have added resources to do so," Eagan said. "It is raining in the CSU, it is pouring. Now is the time to make that investment. Our



students are being flooded away, they are being washed away in debt. And worse, others are not even getting their foot in the door in the CSU.”

Those [calling for the tuition freeze](#) were State Senators Steve Glazer, Ben Allen, Ed Hernandez, Jerry Hill, Bill Dodd, and Henry Stem. Notably they were joined by Assemblymembers Jose Medina and Catharine Baker, the chair and vice chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee respectively. That committee has a large influence on public higher education funding decisions made in the state legislature. (See *photo: Eagan at podium, Medina and Glazer to her left.*)

Eagan said CFA leaders believe the CSU needs at least a \$422 million increase to avoid another tuition hike and to enroll at least 18,000 qualified students who are being turned away from the CSU. She pointed out that when most CSU students were white, funding was there. Now, when more than 70 percent of CSU students are students of color, the funding needs to be there, too.

Also on Monday, it was [Lobby Day for the California State Student Association](#). They rallied outside the Capitol before the students went into the building to meet legislators.

On Thursday, the Senate Budget Committee will take up how much 2018-19 funding the CSU should get. CFA faculty leaders and students plan to fill the room and testify.

## Organizing for April 4: Sacramento students hold teach-in with campus president

Students at CSU Sacramento called on campus President Robert Nelson this week to show his support for students who will rally for the CSU at the State Capitol on April 4.

At a teach-in against a possible tuition hike organized by Students for Quality Education and attended by Nelson, students told personal stories about long work hours, mounting debt, and the challenges to their college dreams.

The crowd gasped when a student named Claudia revealed she works four different jobs to pay her bills during the regular school year and to save to pay tuition during summer and intersession, for which there is no financial aid.

“The way to do this,” Claudia said, “is your parents are rich and they pay for your school.” Yet she hangs in, because, she said, “Education is the only thing that is going to make you prosper.”

When a student asked the crowd how many work more than six hours a day, at least half the room raised their hands. He himself does, often a night shift, and he said to complete his studies and class assignments, he sometimes sleeps only two or three hours a night.



Another student said “My best friend fell through the cracks.” His friend was homeless the first six months at CSU Sacramento, eventually giving up and dropping out. “This is a story that sticks with me, and that’s why I’ve come out for more CSU funding,” he explained.

SQE member Jorge Quintana, who emceed the teach-in, says, “This gave Sac State students a platform to share experiences and frustrations over the proposed tuition increase face to face with the president of our university.”

Capitol CFA Chapter President Margarita Berta-Ávila, who was at the teach-in, says, “It was a clear reminder about the hardships our students go through and the sacrifices they make to complete their goal and obtain a degree.”

Although Nelson was not ready to take particular steps regarding the rally on April 4, he indicated he appreciates CSU students’ budget work and that he has been talking with legislators about the CSU and how underinvestment is harming California.

*PHOTO: CSU Sacramento student Claudia tells her story. Campus President Robert Nelson, seated at left, listens. SQE member Jorge Quintana, wearing SQE shirt, together with SQE member Martha Ancajas, organized the event in preparation for the rally on April 4.*

## **April 4 #FreeTheCSU— New animation tells why, RSVP to get there**

Hundreds of faculty and students around the state have RSVP’d to go to Sacramento on April 4. And a just-released [animation](#) explains why [you should RSVP, too](#).

“This is definitely an ‘if not now, when?’ moment for the CSU,” says Kevin Wehr, CFA Secretary who is organizing for April 4 along with his CFA chapter, which is just a few miles from the State Capitol.



Wehr explains, “During the 2008 recession, we were told there was no money for the CSU. That was a rough time for lots of folks on campus and in our communities.”

He adds, “Now, it’s completely different. This is one of the best fiscal years California has ever had. The state has \$7 billion coming in above expectations—a huge surplus. And yet, we are still told that there is not enough money for the CSU.”

In just one minute, [CFA’s new animation](#) lays out what the fight over the CSU budget is all about. It’s important. The dollars the governor and legislature send to the CSU frame what kind of education the faculty can deliver to students, and the terms on which students are able to attend a CSU.

“Budgets are moral documents that express what a society cares about,” Wehr says. “California cared about public higher education in the past, put its money there, and the educated population this investment produced meant enormous success for our state. It makes no sense to abandon that now.”

**SHOW YOU CARE. BE THERE.  
AT THE STATE CAPITOL. APRIL 4.**

What you can do...

- [RSVP](#) that you will attend the rally on April 4. You will receive information on buses and rides that are being organized from nearly every CSU campus.
- [Get more information to help you urge others to attend](#) from your campus, and from the surrounding community. Parents, alumni, employers, and all manner of supporters of public higher education are urged to attend.
- [Download “23 Reasons to Fight for CSU Funding”](#) to print and post it on your door or bulletin board.



## Faculty Rights Tip: Personal Holiday

Did you know that every faculty employee is entitled to one Personal Holiday each year?

[Article 33](#) of our Collective Bargaining Agreement says:

*33.3 A faculty unit employee shall be entitled to a Personal Holiday, which may be taken on one (1) day during the calendar year. If the faculty unit employee fails to take the Personal Holiday before the end of the calendar year, the holiday shall be forfeited. CSU and CFA shall endeavor to inform a new faculty unit employee of his/her Personal Holiday. Scheduling of the Personal Holiday shall be by mutual agreement of the faculty unit employee and the appropriate administrator.*



One way to use your Personal Holiday is to attend the April 4 **#FreeTheCSU** rally in Sacramento.

Be sure to get mutual agreement with the “appropriate administrator,” usually a department chair or dean, by stressing that this is about securing more funding for the CSU. Administrators and students are welcome to join us.

*Want to learn more? Become active with your local CFA chapter faculty rights team. [Find your representative here.](#)*

*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.”*



- Click here to [browse the faculty contract](#)
- See an [archive of Faculty Rights Tips](#)

## In Other News...

### CSSA LOBBY DAY HIGHLIGHTS CFA-SPONSORED BILL FOR MORE CSU

**COUNSELORS:** The California State Student Association highlighted its support for the [CFA-sponsored SB 968](#) to increase the number of mental health counselors on CSU campuses in their Lobby Day work at the State Capitol this week. SB 968 is authored by Senator Dr. Richard Pan, a UC Davis faculty member and is co-sponsored by SEIU California.

As the [CFA Counselors Committee](#) has been pointing out, there is an [extreme shortage of counselors](#) in the CSU. The legislature will hold its first public hearing on SB 968 on March 21. Counselors Committee Chair Mimi Bommersbach and Stephanie Chervink, a counselor at CSU Chico, will testify at the hearing.

**CFA AT PROTESTS TO DEFEND SANCTUARY STATE:** When Attorney General Jeff Session stormed into the California last week to threaten the state for protecting immigrants, CFA Capitol Chapter President Margarita Berta-Ávila was at the protest, explaining the issues affecting undocumented scholars

Past CFA student intern Rosa Barrientos, who now works for the union-supported Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHRILA), took to the stage alongside Assembly Speaker Kevin de León to describe what DACA and all undocumented students are experiencing.

*PHOTO: Berta-Ávila spoke with Telemundo during the protest.*



## Links of the Week

### Fight for union workers is a fight for all Americans

[San Jose Mercury News](#)

U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris: When Dreamers demand to be able to exercise their full potential, or seniors pack town hall meetings to protest Congressional attempts to shred Medicaid, or women and men fill the streets to rally for respect and equality, especially in the workplace — they are not alone. Wherever Americans fight for justice, shine a light on oppression, or challenge the institutions and leaders that divide us, working people are there — standing together as members of their unions.

### West Virginia governor signs bill to give striking teachers pay raise

[CNN](#)

They won their Fight for 5.

**U. of South Florida adjuncts vote overwhelmingly to unionize. 'I didn't know it was going to turn out this well.'**

[Tampa Bay Times](#)

"The university is not broke, it's on a spending spree," Rusó said. "There's definitely going to be a football stadium on campus. The library is being renovated, and it looks like the Apple store merged with a Starbucks. If they want to say that they don't have the money, well, they have the money. Their priorities are in the wrong place."

**Students meet to raise awareness of university movement**

[The Orion](#) (CSU Chico)

"We want to let students know that they have power within them to advocate for their rights and that they have this opportunity to go to the capital to really demand funding," said Radhika Katarla, Organizer for California Faculty Association. Students from Chico State will be attending the April 4 protest. "It's gonna be really impactful to see that there are students from all over the CSU demanding CSU funding," said Katarla. "The people in the capital need to know that students are really fighting for their rights; this is now or never."

**'A Different Kind of University'**

[Inside Higher Ed](#)

"Shocked, dismayed and angry": faculty members at U. Wisconsin Stevens Point react to a plan to cut 13 majors, including English, history, political science and sociology, and expand more job-oriented programs.

**Welcome to California, President Trump! Now skip the wall and let us educate you**

[Los Angeles Times](#)

Steve Lopez: Why not stop by my Monday night class at Cal State L.A.? It might help educate Trump if he were to actually meet a DACA student or two, rather than taking easy shots from a distance. Maybe I could arrange for him to meet with students of mine who've written powerful stories about their immigration experiences.

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