From the California Faculty Association
CFA HEADLINES
May 3, 2017 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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Action: Tell Gov. Brown CSU needs his support in May Revise of State Budget

We need faculty and students to write letters to Gov. Brown urging him to include in his revised 2017-18 state budget plan the full amount that the CSU Trustees asked of him late last year.

The governor will release the May Revise of his state budget plan this month, so we will soon know his intentions for the CSU.

Write letters to Gov. Brown now through May 11.

Click here to send your letter (or use this link: http://www.calfac.org/write-the-governor)

BACKGROUND

In his initial 2017-18 State Budget plan, which he released in January, Gov. Brown included an increase of $157.2 million in funding for the CSU. That amount falls short of the $324.9 million the CSU Trustees’ requested from the state for the CSU's coming academic year.

This year, the state budget debate has an added twist because the CSU Trustees raised student tuition, then promised to rescind the hike if the full funding request is included in the state budget by the legislature and signed by the governor.

Click here for an FAQ on the budget and to see “23 Reasons to Fund the CSU”
CFA participates in legislative hearings & district visits on key bills, CSU funding

During late April and May, the California State Legislature holds hearings galore on key bills that could affect the future of the CSU, as well as on state funding for our public university. And CFA is on top of it!

Already, CFA leaders and spokespersons provided testimony and sent a letter with commentary to members of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education last week about the CSU budget.

Representatives also spoke at hearings today (May 3) on two CFA-sponsored bills. Tomorrow, the Senate Budget Committee will take up the CSU budget and CFA again will provide testimony.

AB 1464: Tenure Density in the CSU, a bill CFA initiated, came before the Assembly Appropriations Committee today (May 3), would increase the percentage of tenure-line faculty in the CSU to 75% by the year 2025.

CFA Political Action & Legislation Chair Lillian Taiz said of the bill, “We continue to fight for good quality, public higher education. One of the ways we do that is with a bill like AB 1464, which will help to stabilize the CSU’s teaching force. It will require the CSU administration to hire more tenure-track faculty and to give lecturers who work on short-term appointments a possible pathway to the tenure track.”

CFA CHAPTERS ADVOCATE FOR THE CSU

Meanwhile, CFA members are busy around the state reaching out to elected members of the legislature. Cal State Los Angeles CFA leaders Nichelle Henderson and Molly Talcott (in photo left to right) chatted up Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon at the annual Pat Brown Institute Dinner last week.

Members of the San Francisco CFA Chapter visited Assemblymember David Chiu in his home district office to review the CFA-sponsored bills and explain the urgent need to step up state funding for the CSU.

The San Bernardino CFA Chapter met last week with aides to local Assemblymember Jose Medina, who chairs the Assembly Higher Education Committee, and to local state Senator Connie Leyva. The CFA Chapter Political Action Chair Chris Naticchia noted that both representatives are concerned about the need for more state funding for the CSU and the issues that underlie CFA’s sponsored bills.

Learn more about the 2017 CFA Legislative Agenda
CFA joins other unions on May Day to show support for immigrant workers in the U.S.

Campus CFA contingents joined tens of thousands at May Day marches up and down California on Monday, many of them organized by union labor councils.

The protests showed support for immigrants in the U.S. and expressed disagreement with new policies being imposed by the Trump administration.

California Labor Federation Executive Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski speaking in advance, said the day would be a "display of solidarity with the immigrant workers who are vital to our state’s economy and communities. We’re sending a clear message to the Trump Administration and GOP Congress that attacks on immigrant communities won’t be tolerated in California."

CFA CHAPTERS JOINED THE MARCHES

CFA chapters at Cal State LA, Northridge, and Dominguez Hills joined the march in downtown Los Angeles, organized by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. Musician Tom Morello told the Los Angeles May Day rally that he is a bad hombre and “proud to be a union man” before launching into Woody Guthrie’s American anthem, “This Land Is Your Land.”

CFA chapters marched elsewhere in Southern California, too. The Fullerton CFA Chapter joined in the Orange County Labor May Day March and the Long Beach CFA Chapter marched with other unions in Long Beach, including CTA, and the Long Beach City College Faculty Association, as well as many community groups.

The Bakersfield CFA Chapter helped to organize the local a "May Day March & Rally." The faculty contingent carried a CFA banner in the march of about 600 through downtown Bakersfield. Gonzalo Santos (Sociology), a CFA member at CSU Bakersfield who was a rally speaker, told the Bakersfield Californian, “We are part of the solution, not part of the problem in this divided country. We are fed up when they detain us and harass us.”

In Northern California, the Chico CFA Chapter organized a campus “Labor Fair” to mark May Day. In addition to CFA, there were the California Teachers Association, CSU Employees Union, Academic Professional of California, SEIU Local 2015, the Butte Glen Labor Council, the Chico Unified Teachers Association, and Students for Quality Education.

The East Bay CFA Chapter marched in downtown Oakland, the San Jose CFA Chapter marched in San Jose, and the Monterey Bay CFA Chapter (in Photo above) marched in Seaside, CA, which ended in a rally at Seaside City Hall.

A contingent of San Francisco CFA members and students with Students for Quality Education participated in the downtown San Francisco May Day march and a rally outside the Immigration & Customs Enforcement office. The rally was in support of a civil disobedience action by a group of protesters who blocked ICE vans at the site that are used to detain immigrants. SF CFA Chapter members also participated in a subsequent action in SF later in the day.

See the CFA May Day Photo Gallery with photos from around the state.
CFA Chapter Bargaining Meetings on campus—Faculty, please join in

CFA members are getting a better understanding of the faculty contract, and what can happen in negotiations for the next one, at Bargaining Meetings being hosted by Campus CFA Chapters.

- See the schedule of meetings by campus

“We urge all CFA members, and all CSU faculty to attend a meeting on your campus so you will know what is happening as we move through the negotiation process,” says CFA President Jennifer Eagan.

While meetings have already been held on many campuses, others are coming, including at Bakersfield and Pomona tomorrow (May 4), and Fresno on Friday (May 5).

Further on, meetings will be held at East Bay and Stanislaus on May 10, Los Angeles on May 11, San Jose on May 17, and SLO on May 25.

Get full details at http://www.calfac.org/item/cfa-spring-2017-bargaining-meetings. If you missed the meeting on your campus, contact your campus CFA Chapter to learn more.

Grievance underway on lead-contaminated water at Sacramento campus

The Sacramento CFA Chapter will host an all-campus Town Hall meeting next Wednesday, May 10, noon to 1 pm in Sequoia 338, to explore revelations that about 85% of campus drinking water has detectable levels of lead.

It is a health hazard that, according CFA Chapter President Kevin Wehr, has not been adequately addressed by the campus management.

“Out of urgent concern about health and environmental safety for faculty, staff, students, and children on campus, we requested information from the administration about what was known, what was not yet known, and what the remediation plan was,” Wehr wrote in an open letter inviting everyone on campus to the CFA Town Hall. “The response was, to put it nicely, underwhelming.”

The CFA Chapter has posted on the chapter’s web page extensive links to the information available to date, along with information about lead, and the letter detailing the problem. In the letter, CFA lays out near-term measures the campus management should take.
CFA leader Karen Davis honored by Monterey Labor Council

The Monterey County Central Labor Council Unionist of the Year Award went to CFA leader Karen Davis.

Davis, who has played many roles over the years in the Monterey Bay CFA Chapter, says the award is “a recognition of the work that all of us in the CFA Monterey Bay chapter are doing to support the spirit of trade unionism and the work of faculty throughout the CSU. One person alone can never build or sustain a union. I am truly proud to stand side by side with my CFA/CSUMB colleagues.”

At an award dinner last Friday, labor council Executive Director Cesar Lara presented Davis with a collection of certificates from the California State Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization.

PHOTO left to right: Monterey Bay CFA Chapter members Jennifer Colby and Arlene Haffa, award-winner Karen Davis, Monterey Bay CFA Chapter President Rafael Gomez, former State Assemblymember Luis Alejo, and CFA member Frauke Loewensen.

Stopgap Federal budget preserves higher ed spending

The emergency federal spending bill adopted by the U.S. Congress appears to preserve federal spending, with small expansions, for higher education. The bill keeps the federal government going into September of this year.

According to several news sources, notable elements of the measure include small increases in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The bill also reinstitutes year-round Pell Grants, which are need-based federal grants for undergraduates, and provides a small $105 increase to maximum Pell award, making the maximum grant $5,920.

A cut to the Department of Education applies to K-12 programs.

In the sciences, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration appear to have its research funding intact, although the National Weather Service does see a cut. A number of other programs have relatively small increases or cuts.

See a summary outline of the wins and losses from the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee Democratic Caucus.

See news reports summarizing the impact on higher education in The Chronicle of Higher Education and Inside Higher Ed.
Faculty Rights Tip: June Deadlines for Notification of Tenure

Under Article 13: Tenure in our Collective Bargaining Agreement, June 1 is the contractual deadline for local campus administrators to notify probationary faculty of the final decision regarding retention, appointment with tenure, or appointment to a final terminal year.

Under Article 14: Promotion, June 15 is the contractual deadline for promotion decisions.

(February 15 is the date required for non-retention of probationary faculty who are on the job less than two years, and Promotion.)

Some campuses set earlier dates, so check your campus calendar.

Usually, the notice will come from the campus president or his or her designee. Faculty should check the local campus RTP policies to see who issues the final decision on your campus.

During this busy time of the academic year, probationary faculty should check your campus mail regularly. If you receive a negative letter regarding reappointment or tenure, you should contact your CFA Faculty Rights Representative immediately. You have 42 days from the date you receive the notice to file an appeal through the grievance process.

Do not wait until the last minute; contact your CFA faculty rights representative immediately.

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

Editorial: State audits give failing grades to UC, CSU
Santa Rosa Press Democrat
Fee increases at some point are inevitable. But it will be close to impossible to justify them now in light of Howle’s findings.

CSU, UC must clean up their fiscal houses
LA Daily News
The highlight—er, lowlight—of State Auditor Elaine Howle’s report on CSU was that over the past eight years the system has hired middle managers at a rate at least twice that of any other employee group, including faculty. And that compensation for managers has grown at three times the rate of faculty pay. That’s bad enough—the people who actually teach our young people at CSU are more important than those who direct them and shuffle papers, in our view.

What the Congressional Budget Deal Means for Higher Ed
Chronicle of Higher Education

Budget Deal Provides Money for NIH and Year-Round Pell
Inside Higher Ed
The National Endowments for the Humanities and for the Arts would also see slight increases for the 2017 fiscal year, in sharp contrast to the eliminations that the Trump administration has proposed for

**Purdue’s Purchase of Kaplan Is a Big Bet — and a Sign of the Times**  
*Chronicle of Higher Education*  
By acquiring the for-profit-education giant, the public university is taking cues from the fast pace of online growth at other nonprofit institutions.

**Gender Gaps Shrinking and Lingering**  
*Inside Higher Ed*  
New research suggests limited role for gender in predicting whether new Ph.D.s will get tenure-track jobs, but notable differences on pay and other issues, favoring men.

**Report Tracks Social Inequity in Higher Education**  
*Inside Higher Ed*  
Students from American families with the highest incomes are almost five times likelier than students from the poorest families to earn a bachelor’s degree by age 24.

**Political Division Soars on Campus, Survey Finds**  
*Chronicle of Higher Education*  
College freshmen are more politically polarized than they’ve been in at least half a century

**San Diego schools launch long-term effort to fight Islamophobia**  
*Yahoo Digest*  

**Historians react to Trump’s Civil War comments: ‘That’s entirely wrong in every respect’**  
*Yahoo News*  

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