Take Action: Tell Legislators to step up CSU funding by $325 million

Our state Assembly and Senate representatives are debating how much to spend on what in the 2017/18 State Budget—and that includes how much they propose to send to the California State University.

Take action now: Send a message to your state Assemblymember and Senator!

As most CFA Headlines readers already know, the CSU Trustees sent a funding request to the governor and legislature that is $325 million more than the CSU got in the current year. That money is needed to fund classes and support for the rapidly increasing number of students who are counting on our public “People’s University.”

But that’s not all. The Trustees upped the stakes by deciding to raise student tuition, with a promise to rescind that increase if the CSU gets the full $325 million funding increase.

The Trustees should not have raised tuition and, instead, should have been at The Capitol alongside faculty and students, who were working hard to advocate for the money our system needs. Now, the CSU needs your help to ensure our voices are heard.

Take action now: Send a message to your state Assemblymember and Senator!
CFA Latina/o Caucus lobbies for the CSU, faculty, and our students

Leaders of CFA’s Latina/o Caucus traveled to Sacramento last Tuesday, May 23 to lobby elected members of the California Assembly and Senate who belong to the Legislative Latino Caucus.

The CFA leaders talked with legislators about CFA priorities, including the CSU’s budget allocation from the state. They also discussed CFA-sponsored legislation such as Assembly Bill 21: ‘Access to Higher Education for Every Student’ (authored by Assemblymember Ash Kalra), which would expand support to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students who face difficult new challenges due to their immigration status.

The faculty expressed concerns about adequate funding to the CSU for ethnic studies, and discussed other bills that CFA supports.

Two groups of CFA Latina/o Caucus members held meetings with 19 members of the Legislative Latino Caucus and/or their staff. This was part of their ongoing commitment to support the Latino community. Both groups said the meetings were very positive.

Margarita Berta-Avila who teaches at CSU Sacramento said,

“It was a great experience to connect with the members of the legislature and their staff regarding the issues facing our community. We were on the same page for the most part. These visits are opportunities to open lines of communication and for them to be accountable.”

PHOTO: Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio (D-West Covina), center, was visited by CFA Latina/o Caucus members, left to right, Blanca Castañeda, CFA Field Representative, and faculty members Nena Torrez from CSU San Bernardino, Rosalinda Quintanar from San Jose State, and Margarita Berta-Avila from CSU Sacramento. Also participating in the lobby day were faculty members Rafael Gomez from CSU Monterey Bay, and Theresa Montaño and Antonio Gallo, both from CSU Northridge.
Educators: Write letters to #FreeClaudia, a Cal State LA student detained by ICE

Two weeks ago, 22-year-old Cal State LA student Claudia Rueda was arrested near her home in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of East Los Angeles. She is being held at Otay Mesa Detention Center. #FreeClaudia

Claudia is an immigrant rights activist who came to the U.S. as a young child. When her mother was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, she worked successfully to get her released. Claudia’s attorney told the Los Angeles Times this latest detention is retaliation.

In a follow-up article, the Times reported: “Her mother’s job at a local bakery paid her tuition. Rueda’s attorney said she was eligible for protection under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, but hadn’t been able to pay for her application.”

Now educators are being asked to send letters to ICE calling for Claudia’s release.

There is also a petition to circulate, and information on phone calls and other ways that advocates of immigrant rights can help on Twitter at #FreeClaudia

View CFA’s statement on the detention of Claudia Rueda

Newly elected CFA Officers and Board members take the reins, celebrate VP Kim Geron for his service

As happens every two years, delegates to the CFA Assembly in March elected the nine officers and the various representatives who comprise CFA’s Board of Directors. The new board and officers take the reins on June 1.

This year, Kim Geron (Political Science, East Bay), steps away from service as CFA’s statewide Vice President, a position he’s served in since 2007.

Kim Geron is a key champion and steward of CFA’s Tim Sampson Student Intern program. He will continue his work as the primary faculty liaison with CFA student interns. CFA interns study the skills needed to plan, organize, and lead on social justice and economic issues affecting our public university system from a student’s perspective. Today, the internship program is active on most CSU campuses.
His work as the main faculty liaison with CFA student interns stands out as far different from internships in most areas of work. CFA interns study the skills needed to plan, organize, and lead on social justice and economic issues affecting our public university system from a student’s perspective. Today, the internship program is active on most CSU campuses.

Reflecting on her colleague at the East Bay campus, President Jennifer Eagan says,

“Kim Geron is my close colleague and someone I will always rely on. I don’t know anyone who knows more about labor in California. Though Kim is stepping down, others are stepping up. I am delighted that Charles Toombs will be VP, and that Rafael Gomez is an incoming officer. I am personally fortunate to work with such dedicated and talented people as our officers and board members.”

Charles Toombs, a professor of Africana Studies at San Diego State, is stepping into the role of CFA Vice President.

Rafael Gomez (World Languages & Cultures, Monterey Bay), the incoming Associate Vice President-North, is the latest faculty member to join the roster of CFA officers. Kevin Wehr (Sociology, Sacramento) is now Secretary, Susan Green (History, Chico) continues as Treasurer, Molly Talcott (Sociology, Los Angeles) is now AVP-South, Cecil Canton continues as AVP-Affirmative Action, Leslie Bryan continues as AVP-Lecturers-South, and Jonathan Karpf continues as AVP-Lecturers-North.

Click here to see the CFA Board of Directors.

CFA says: Be well. Do good work. Keep in touch.

Changes to public higher education are not taking the summer off, so it’s important to stay in touch this summer.

From Trustees meetings at the Chancellor’s Office in Long Beach to Department of Education turmoil in Washington DC, it behooves us all to be up to date when we return for the new 2017/18 academic year.

Here are some of the ways:

• **GET ‘CFA HEADLINES’**: If you don’t already receive this once-a-week email newsletter from CFA automatically, sign up at the link. Headlines publishes regularly during the academic year and over the summer and breaks, there are special editions when important things happen.

• **GET CFA TEXT ALERTS** for breaking news that requires faculty to take action.

• **FOLLOW CFA ON FACEBOOK** to keep up with what is going on through links, photos, and video. Also, check out your own campus CFA Chapter Facebook page.

• **FOLLOW CFA ON TWITTER**
Faculty Rights Tip: I Need a Union Rep!

The tip this week is not a new one, but it continues to be relevant at several points in the year.

Have you (or someone you know) ever been called into a meeting with an administrator and were not quite sure what the meeting was about?

And once in the meeting realized, you were being questioned or investigated about some issue for which you might be disciplined, reprimanded, or otherwise negatively affected? You need, and are entitled to have, a union representative or another advocate of your choosing with you at that meeting.

You can invoke your right to have an advocate with you before or during the meeting by saying:

“If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my working conditions, I request that my CFA representative or another advocate of my choosing be present at this meeting.”

The administrator must grant the request even if it means rescheduling the meeting to a time that works for you and your advocate.

The rights of represented (i.e. in a union) employees to bring an advocate and to have the time needed to obtain an advocate for investigatory meetings comes from the 1975 Supreme Court case, NLRB v. J. Weingarten, thus the term “Weingarten Rights.”

Given the increase in investigatory meetings, it’s important to know about and exercise these rights now more than ever.

Here are links to previous Faculty Rights Tips about Weingarten Rights:

- Weingarten Rights
- Campus Investigations and Weingarten Rights
- More about Weingarten Rights

CFA is here to help! If you have concerns, contact your campus CFA faculty rights representative

For answers to questions or to suggest a tip, please write us with the subject line “Faculty Rights Tip.”

See previous Faculty Rights Tips on a range of topics in our contract.
Links of the Week

CSU Then and Now: As enrollment at California State University campuses has increased, state funding for the system has dramatically declined

Comstock's Magazine

“We can ignore the facts showing that educational equity is declining and disparities by wealth and income widening,” according to the CFA paper, “but the price of that denial is high.” ...“As the student body of the CSU became darker, funding became lighter,” testified Cecil Canton, a criminal justice professor at Sacramento State, at a state Capitol hearing in October 2016, as noted in the report. ... The budget “shows a real-tone-deafness to the 30-year trend of defunding the CSU,” says California Faculty Association President Jennifer Eagan.

After raising tuition, Cal State trustees grapple with smaller budget increase in governor's latest proposal

Los Angeles Times

The CSU Board of Trustees, which recently approved a controversial tuition hike, grappled with Gov. Jerry Brown's revised budget proposal, which takes away some additional funding on the grounds that the rise in tuition will cost the state more in aid to low-income students.

Students demand Cal State officials rethink tuition hike

Long Beach Press Telegram

CSU students demanded the system's trustees reconsider a 5 percent tuition hike, stressing a growing frustration ... during the meeting, some members of the board expressed concern about the high compensation some CSU presidents earn, including a plan to pay incoming interim San Diego State U. president Sally Roush more than $428,000, as students and the workers who keep the schools running struggle. "It's the wrong message at the wrong time," said trustee Douglas Faigin.

Search begins for new San Diego State president as trustees announce salary for interim leader

Los Angeles Times

Once Roush takes office in July, 12 of Cal State’s 23 presidents will be women. She will replace Elliot Hirshman, who announced earlier this year that he would be leaving to lead Stevenson U. in Maryland. Roush — who worked at San Diego State in various positions for three decades — will lead the campus until the board of trustees names a permanent president next summer. Trustees on Wednesday, after some debate, agreed to give Hirshman's $428,645 salary — the highest of any Cal State president — to Roush.

CSU employees rally at Cal State Long Beach for new contract

Long Beach Press Telegram

Members of the CSU Employees Union rally for a new contract outside the CSU Chancellor's office in Long Beach

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Are you faculty at a CSU campus? Join CFA today. It's our union!