

From the California Faculty Association

CFA HEADLINES

September 26, 2018 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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You can make a difference! Voting in California begins in 10 days

[Join your campus CFA chapter](#) to elect candidates who support public higher education!

The official 2018 General Election Day is November 6, but the voting in California really begins just 10 days from now, on October 8, when vote-by-mail ballots start to arrive at voters' homes.



Since a majority of California voters now use mail ballots, we effectively have an election season, not just a day.

That means the work CFA members are doing *right now* is critical — registering voters, convincing people to vote, and garnering support for [pro-public higher education candidates](#).

Make a difference. [Click here](#) to volunteer.

KEY DATES IN THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION:

- If you vote by mail, watch for your ballot beginning October 8.
- If you want to vote by mail you still can, but [your request](#) must be to the [Secretary of State](#) by October 30.
- If you are not registered to vote at all, you must [register by October 22](#) or you will miss this critical election.

Don't miss it. Be there. Merge your power with the vast majority of Americans who support public higher education when you —Vote! Then, [take the next step](#) by volunteering to convince others to vote for public higher education.

- See the list of [candidates endorsed by CFA](#).

BE AN ELECTION SEASON VIDEO STAR: CFA affiliate the California Teachers Association has launched a project asking you to submit a video explaining why you [support Tony Thurmond](#) for

Superintendent of Public Instruction—and you do it in 30 seconds right on your smart phone. If you are down: [Submit your video and/or picture here!](#)

PHOTO: CFA members turned out to walk precincts for [Sabrina Cervantes](#), the state Assembly candidate in District 60, which is in northwest Riverside County. Pictured left-to-right are faculty members Brandon Johns and Chris Naticchia, both of CSU San Bernardino; Shelly Arsneault of CSU Fullerton; candidate Sabina Cervantes; and faculty member Art Sutton of Cal Poly Pomona. [Click here to see a photo gallery of CFA members in electoral action to support public higher education.](#)

Mental health counselors bill vetoed; CFA says “We are not giving up!”

Despite broad, bi-partisan support among state legislators, Governor Brown has vetoed SB 968, a bill to improve student access to mental health counseling on California State University campuses.

In his veto message, Brown wrote that more resources for student mental health care is an “understandable goal” but they should be found “within the budget process.” He said the ratio of students per counselor should be “the purview of the boards or local campuses.”



SB 968 would have adopted the maximum ratio [recommended by national experts](#), which is one counselor for every 1500 students. CSU campuses have chosen much larger ratios and some are double the recommended maximum at one counselor per 3000 students or more. The result is that students must wait too long to get help.

“The Trustees and the campus administrations are displaying spectacularly bad judgement,” says Lillian Taiz, CFA Political Action and Legislation Chair. “They’ve heard repeatedly from the counselors working on our own campuses that the level of student mental health care in the CSU is at best not responsible and at worst dangerous.”

Taiz points out that counselors have worked hard to communicate their concern as they addressed the Trustees, testified at the Capitol, written about the shortage of counselors, and even mounted art installations on the campuses to illustrate the problem.

“The Counselors have repeatedly warned the Trustees, Chancellor’s Office, and campus administrators,” Taiz says. “When leaders fail to act, we must seek legislation in order to protect our students.”

This issue affects every CSU faculty member who has ever had a student struggling and on the verge of giving up.

Taiz, an Emeritus Professor of History, points out, “When faculty can get students counseling help promptly, there is a much greater likelihood that our students will stabilize, hang on, and get to graduation.”

SB 968 also would have required tracking the number of suicides on CSU campuses. At the moment, the CSU like [most public universities, do not track student suicides](#). Nationally, there are

[reports of an increase in student suicides.](#)

Taiz says, “We are not giving up on this issue because people’s lives, our students’ lives, are at stake.”

OTHER LEGISLATION

FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY: In addition to student mental health care, CFA also advocated in the legislature this year for greater transparency and accountability in the CSU. CFA’s work contributed to stronger measures, both through language in the main 2018-19 state budget bill and through a policy bill, AB 2505.

AB 2505 began in response to a scathing state audit of the CSU that identified the CSU administration’s weakness in budget management, and in spending and hiring decisions, including the use of “off book” money.

Now that it has been signed into law by Governor Brown, CSU management must make an annual report on current hiring practices for CSU positions, including executives, management personnel, faculty, and staff, and they must compare their present practices to “best practices” at other public higher education systems.

Also, in addition to the [big CSU funding win](#) in the 2018-19 state budget, language in that budget bill,—which is [SB 840](#) in item 6610-001-001 about the CSU,—spells out specific topics that must be made public, including:

- How the \$75 million allocated to the CSU Chancellor’s Office’s Graduation Initiative is budgeted and used by each campus, along with an explanation of how that spending has led to “student success” in general and for students who are low-income, historically under-represented, and first-generation.
- Growth in management, faculty and staff positions, with an explanation of how each area of growth has contributed to student success.
- The ratios by campus of tenure-line faculty to students, and of Lecturers to students.
- The number and amount spent by campus of newly hired tenure-line faculty, and of current Lecturers hired to the tenure line.
- The number and types of classes added to the university’s offerings.
- How an increased number of student enrollment slots and associated funding is allocated to each campus, as well as to student services to be supported with that funding.

CFA Associate VP Rafael Gómez [addressed the CSU Trustees in September](#) on how they and the Chancellor are spending the increased 2018-19 state funding for the CSU, which was won after a robust campaign by faculty and students earlier this year.

“CFA is pleased the governor signed AB 2505,” says Gómez, “and CFA looks forward to seeing and analyzing this new report.”

SB 1421 “RIGHT TO KNOW”: As of *CFA Headlines* deadline time, SB 1421 was waiting on the governor’s desk.

CFA co-sponsored this “Right to Know” bill to reduce some of the secrecy around police officers’ behavior. This would include allowing the public to see records of investigations into sexual assault by police officers, cases of dishonesty in investigations, and uses of deadly force.

Other sponsors include the ACLU, Black Lives Matter, and the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

CFA Faculty meetings coming to your campus this term

CSU faculty who have been here awhile are well aware that the Faculty Voice is heard best when we build the power to make sure we are heard.

And those who are newly arrived at the CSU may have seen how faculty voices can be silenced at the other places where they have taught and studied.

This fall, CFA Chapters on each campus will hold Faculty Meetings to explore how all of us, working together, help CFA build power to win for our colleagues, our students, and our system.

CFA President Jennifer Eagan says, “It is time for us to come together, learn about the issues, and build power for our next contract negotiations. Our first priority is getting pro-higher education candidates elected so the CSU has the funding it needs to enable us to provide quality education for our students.”

Dates for CFA Faculty meetings scheduled so far include:

- **Dominguez Hills:** Weds, Oct 31 at 11:30 am-1 pm or 1-2:30 pm, place TBA
- **Fresno:** Wed, Oct 10 at 11 am-Noon or Noon-1 pm, both in the Vintage Room on campus
- **Los Angeles:** Mon, Oct 29 at 11 am-Noon or Tue, Oct 30 at Noon-1 pm, place TBA
- **Maritime:** Mon, Oct 25 at 11am –Noon, place TBA
- **Monterey Bay:** Mon, Oct 15 at Noon, place TBA
- **San Francisco:** Wed, Oct 24 from 12:30-2 pm, place TBA
- **Stanislaus:** Mon, Oct 15 at 11 am-Noon or Noon-1 pm, at the Pizza Factory (across from campus)

Watch CFA Headlines in the coming weeks for more details and dates at your campus. Also, watch for email from your campus CFA Chapter or check out [your campus CFA Chapter web page](#) to learn more.

Faculty Rights Tip: Submitting your Evaluation File for review

This time of year can be stressful. On many campuses, probationary faculty are preparing their Retention, Tenure, & Promotion (RTP) files for submission. Most Lecturers, Coaches, and temporary Librarians also will go through a review process at some point during the academic year.

The review cycles, policies, procedures, and criteria are different for each CSU campus and are



developed and adopted locally by campus Academic Senates and Administrations. There often are college and department RTP policies as well. However, the policies, procedures, and criteria must be in compliance with all the applicable articles in our Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Our [CFA Faculty Rights Representatives](#) are familiar with and have experience with all those articles. Many CFA chapters offer file preparation workshops and, often, senior CFA faculty representatives mentor junior faculty throughout the process.

We also can be of help during the review process. Occasionally, one review committee or reviewer may inadvertently make a procedural error or misinterpret material in the file. Our Representatives can help in responding when this happens. We also can help to [assess and deal with](#) a “not-so-positive” review.

Timing is important, so contact your representative immediately if you need to respond.

And, at the end of the evaluation process, if you receive a negative final decision, we can help appeal that decision. Timing is critically important at each stage, and it is important to contact your CFA representative immediately for help.

So while the process may be a stressful, rest assured that we’ve got your back.

If you need help you can contact your local 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.

In Other News

FOOD DISTRIBUTION BY CFA STANISLAUS: The Stanislaus CFA Chapter made it possible to distribute food boxes to hungry students in need this week.

Stanislaus CFA President Steven Filling reports: “Last year CFA Stanislaus made the founding donation for the Stanislaus Campus Cares Fund, which provides both funding for the campus student food pantry and a student emergency loan fund.



“This year, CFA Stanislaus is augmenting that donation by providing resources to enable our local food bank, United Samaritans Foundation, to prepare and distribute boxes of food to our students.

“Twice each month, the Foundation will provide 50 food boxes to hungry Stanislaus students. At the September events, all food boxes were distributed within 30 minutes; students who didn’t receive a food box were invited to the Warrior Food Pantry so that nobody left empty-handed.

“We are very proud of this project, which epitomizes our commitment to the well-being as well as the education of our students.”

'PROSPECTOR PETE' IS RETIRED: Today, Cal State Long Beach is known as “The Beach.” But the mascot Prospector Pete has stuck around—until now. As those who study California history know, slavery of and genocide against indigenous people was legal policy in Pete’s time. But times have changed.

“As our diversity grew and more voices were heard, we came to know that the 1849 California gold rush was a time in history when the indigenous peoples of California endured subjugation, violence and threats of genocide,” President Jane Close Conoley said in a statement. “Today, the spirit of inclusivity is reflected in our students, faculty, staff, alumni and community. Today’s Beach is not connected to that era.”

The Prospector Pete statue is being moved to a new Alumni Center. Other voices on campus are finding new ways to mark history by [educating the campus community](#) about the site of the Puvunga Tribe’s village, on which the campus is built.

Craig Stone, director of the American Indian Studies Program at Long Beach, told the [Los Angeles Times](#) he welcomes the college’s desire to be inclusive. “It’s been an issue for the last 50 years, and now we’re in a moment in time when the culture is receptive to making a change.”

See [a related CFA resolution](#) on eliminating racialized mascots in the CSU.

AAUP BUSY DEFENDING FREEDOM OF ACADEMICS: The American Association of University Professors has been standing up for us this month. There was [a statement on “Unacceptable Attacks”](#) by Pres. Trump on GWU researchers who found that almost 3,000 people died in Puerto Rico from Hurricane Maria. “For the president of the United States to accuse scholars of political bias, without a shred of evidence, is an unacceptable assault on independent research and the academic freedom of scientists,” the AAUP asserts.

Then there is an [AAUP survey on the Impact of For-profit Online Education Contracts](#) that are being signed by university managements across the nation. A report will provide insights into whether privatization contracts such as these can compromise educational quality, student privacy, the reputation of the institution, and faculty governance.

Finally, the AAUP legal department has filed [an amicus brief](#) in a federal court battle arguing for the right of faculty at Duquesne, and at all religious colleges, to join a union.

CFA members can join AAUP for free, but you have to express your interest. [Click here to learn](#) more about AAUP membership and [click here to join](#).

Not yet a CFA member? You can [join CFA here](#).

Links of the Week

Growing number of Democrats run on free college, pushing issue into mainstream
[Inside Higher Ed](#)

A growing number of Democratic candidates at the state and federal level are running on free college. But there's a sharp divide within the party and liberal policy circles over the concept.

Is Your State Serving Black Students?
[Inside Higher Ed](#) • [EdSource](#)

New report from the University of Southern California's Race and Equity Center grades public institutions across the country. California ranks high in national study about black college students but criticism remains. Study examines enrollment, graduation rates, gender gaps.

Mother of murdered African-American Humboldt student fights for justice

[Sonoma State Star](#)

Lawson's mother spoke in front of the Board of Trustees members, wearing a "Justice for Josiah" t-shirt, with friends and family members standing behind her. She called on the board for action. ... (and) stressed she wanted a change in a safe environment for students of color to be able to learn. She also called for more Professors of color to be in positions of leadership roles.

Newsom's 'cradle-to-career' education pledge will require sweeping changes in California

[EdSource](#)

This cradle-to-career strategy is the central organizing principle of Newsom's [education platform](#), bringing together parts of the educational system that are not currently connected and linking them seamlessly.

Student leaders speak out against executive pay raises

[The Orion](#) (CSU Chico)

At a statewide meeting of the California State Students Association, a rep from Chico noted, "You have the Board of Trustees yelling at the state for not fully funding the CSU, and when they get the money..., who do they (give funds) to first?"

Everything you need to know about President Armstrong's raise

[Mustang News](#) (Cal Poly SLO)

An examination of the rationale and Trustees' debate over salary hikes to CSU executives last July.

Loan Forgiveness Denial; Puerto Rico Schools After Maria; DeVos Calls for Free-Speech

[National Public Radio](#)

All that plus: Trump plans to cut Head Start funding to pay for detention of immigrant children.

Koch-funded college journalism arrives at SDSU

[San Diego Reader](#)

Watch out for the fine print.

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