From the California Faculty Association
Welcome back from the winter holidays.

CFA HEADLINES
January 7, 2014 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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Bargaining for next faculty contract underway

The CFA and CSU management bargaining teams met in December to launch talks for the next faculty contract. At the two-day session, the CFA team rolled out some of its initial proposals in areas including workload and compensation.

Andy Merrifield who chairs the CFA Bargaining Team said the tone of the session was “cordial, productive and professional.” He added, “At this first session, we took some small steps. There is much more to come.”

The sides are scheduled to meet again this Thursday and Friday, Jan. 9 and 10. The current contract expires this coming June 30.

See a CFA Bargaining Team post for more details.

Two ways you can show support for the CFA Bargaining Team

There are always ways that CSU faculty members can demonstrate our support for our CFA Bargaining Team. Right now, here are two ideas:

PUT UP A ‘FAIR CONTRACT’ SIGN. Your campus CFA chapter has attractive signs available to post on your office door or bulletin board. Contact your chapter

HELP TO BUILD CFA MEMBERSHIP. CFA represents all faculty but each of us must say affirmatively we want to be counted as a member. Please join CFA if you are not already a
member. Invite a colleague to join if you’ve already joined yourself. You can familiarize yourself with the benefits of membership on the CFA web site.

Crisis Guide 5.0 for Lecturers on the CFA web site

Have you or a Lecturer you know been told there is no more work for you at the CSU? If so, the updated CFA Crisis Guide 5.0 may help.

The CFA Lecturers Council, which developed the Guide, writes in the introduction, “We hope (it) provides information and resources.”

Among other topics, the Guide takes up your rights under the faculty contract, your medical benefits, and your right to unemployment benefits as well as how to pursue those benefits.

Faculty Rights Tip of the Week: Lecturers & work assignments during the year

This weekly CFA Headlines feature offers a brief “Faculty Rights Tip” or short information piece about the faculty contract.

FACULTY RIGHTS TIP: Lecturers & Work Assignments During the Year (12.29b)

At the beginning of each new term during the academic year the teaching assignments for Lecturers are often in flux until the last minute. It can be a challenging time for both Lecturers and department chairs.

Article 12.29b of the collective bargaining agreement governs the assignment of classes during the academic year (i.e., in terms other than Fall). The administration must follow the order of appointments specified in this article.

If you are a Lecturer who has been told you may be losing classes or if you are a department chair making last-minute class assignments of available work this spring term, we urge you to review Article 12.29b of the Faculty Contract and contact your campus CFA chapter faculty rights representative if you have questions.

To learn more about faculty rights contact your campus CFA representative 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.”

Campaign for Future of Higher Ed to meet in NYC
Faculty organization leaders and activists head to New York City January 16 for the Sixth National Gathering of the Campaign for the Future of Higher Education.

The Professional Staff Congress, the union of faculty and staff in the City University of New York, will host the weekend of discussions and workshops on the theme: Building Effective Campaigns to Defend and Promote Higher Education. The “hands-on” meeting will share experiences and skills among faculty groups from states across the nation on running effective campaigns to win gains on the large issues confronting higher education.

The weekend is prelude to the next gathering in Albany, New York in May when a larger coalition of faculty and other higher education advocates will meet to develop common goals to save and advance higher education policies in the U.S.

In October, CFHE released three working papers challenging the claims of online higher ed providers, particularly those developing MOOCs. CFHE’s work found that they are not the cost-saving miracles they claim to be, that the students who need better education the most benefit from them the least, and that the prime driver is to generate investor profits.

The papers have already generated notable national news coverage and debate, and will be a prime topic for participants at this month’s meeting.

Learn more about the Campaign for the Future of Higher Ed

**National Media take up the trouble with MOOCs**

- **AFT PUBLISHES CFHE PAPER IN WINTER MAG**
  The latest issue of the American Federation of Teacher’s “On Campus” magazine is themed “MOOC Disrupters: Can faculty ensure massive open, online courses ensure quality and opportunity?” It includes evaluations of how well—or not—MOOCs are serving students and a version of the CFHE paper on the MOOC money trail to profits, among many other articles.

- **NPR’s ALL THINGS CONSIDERED**
  National Public Radio’s daily news did an in-depth, clarifying examination of MOOCs in this seven-minute report, “The Online Education Revolution Drifts Off Course” Among other schools, it took up the San Jose State/Udacity MOOC experiment that turned out so poorly and describes some of the faculty “rebellion” against the rapid come, rapid go policies bringing MOOCs to campuses across the nation.

- **THE ATLANTIC MAGAZINE & DIVERSE ISSUES IN HIGHER ED**
  The Atlantic put it bluntly in the title—“We Are Creating Wal-Marts of Higher Education” A summary statement outlines the battleground: “Under pressure to turn out more students, more quickly and for less money, and to tie graduates’ skills to workforce needs, higher-education institutions and policy
makers have been busy reducing the number of required credits, giving credit for life experience, and cutting some courses, while putting others online.” It also introduces the opposition, including some of the faculty who will meet at the Campaign for the Future of Higher Ed gathering in New York City later this month. The article also appears in Diverse Issues in Higher Ed under the title “Faculty Protest Reforms They Say ‘Dumb Down’ Higher Ed”

Links of the week

Higher Education’s Big (Data) Bang
The use of Big Data could unlock as much as $5 trillion in economic value a year, and it’s falling on colleges and universities to ensure such a boon happens. — eCampus News

Raising the Bar on Faculty
An administrative law judge in Florida last week upheld new rules by the State Department of Education that require significantly more of state college faculty members – particularly in the areas of student success – for them to earn continuing contracts. The ruling also upholds a change to the time it takes professors to earn their first contract. Instead of three years, faculty members will now only be eligible after five years of service. — Inside Higher Ed

State Supremes admit undocumented lawyer to the Bar
CSU Chico graduate Sergio Garcia can practice law in California, the state Supreme Court ruled Wednesday, but he still cannot get paid or charge clients because of federal law. A state law that took effect on January 1 gave the state high court room to approve Garcia’s application for a license to practice the profession. — L.A. Observed

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