

From the California Faculty Association

CFA HEADLINES

February 25, 2014 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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- Thousands message Legislature on state budget
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All-Faculty CFA meetings being held in March, April



CFA Officers and Bargaining Team members are traveling to all 23 CSU campuses to brief you—the faculty—on bargaining and to update you on the CSU budget.

CFA urges all CSU faculty members to attend.

Meetings this week include:

East Bay: Tue, Feb 25, 4-6 pm, University Union, Bay View Room. For info: Maureen Loughran 510-206-1263.

Pomona: Tue, Mar 4, 11:30 am-1pm, Kellogg West. Presenters include CFA Associate VP Jonathan Karpf. Show your support to our CFA Bargaining Team by wearing your “Love for a Fair Contract t-shirt.” RSVP and/or request a “Love” t-shirt: Jackie Teepen (jteepen@calfac.org) or the CFA chapter office 323-343-5310.

Click here to see the complete listing of dates/times by campus:

<http://www.calfac.org/headline/you-are-invited-your-campus-all-faculty-cfa-meeting>

Faculty, students, Chancellor call for more CSU funding from state

CSU faculty, students and administration advocated for stepping up state funding for the system at an Assembly hearing last week.

The governor proposes to increase CSU funding by about 5 percent, but many, including the CSU administration, believe more is needed.

CSU Chancellor Tim White, for example, testified that while he is grateful for the proposed budget increase, an additional \$95 million is needed.



We are not meeting the demand for higher education in the state, explained, saying, “This past fall we denied admission to 30,000 fully qualified students.” And, the CSU may deny more than that this fall.

He said students and their families make sacrifices and do the work “and ‘there’s no room at the inn’ seems like a bankrupt contract with our population.”

CSU faculty, students and alumni also testified at the hearing, telling the committee that more funding isn’t just wanted – it’s absolutely necessary in order to maintain quality public higher education.

“It’s been six years – we’ve seen declines in faculty and increases in students,” said Kevin Wehr, president of CFA’s Sac State chapter. “We’ve been unable to absorb that through volunteering our work. It’s not sustainable ... It’s not fair to the students and it’s not fair to the people of California.”

To watch faculty, students, Chancellor White and higher ed officials testify, go to http://calchannel.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=1828

Thousands message Legislature about state budget

CFA members and CSU supporters have emailed and mailed California legislators by the thousands, calling for an increase in funding for the CSU beyond the 5 percent increase proposed by Gov. Brown in early January.

CFA asked members, advocates and all who support higher ed to use our “Take Action” tool to message their elected officials.

The result was inspiring.

All told, 3,736 messages were sent to legislators between Jan. 22 to Feb. 14. San Diego took the prize for the most people who sent messages!

Thanks to all who participated. Your voice and your advocacy showed state leaders that more funding for the CSU is critical to ensure the future of quality public higher education in California.

Student fee hike defeated at Sonoma, still pushed at other campuses

A [campaign by students and faculty at Sonoma State](#) has [defeated a plan](#) to raise campus student fees this fall by \$500 a year.

In the wake of an [online petition](#), protest emails and [columns in local newspapers](#), campus administrators and the CSU Chancellor's Office decided to drop the effort to establish what was called a "Student Success Fee."

But, while Sonoma beat back the hike, similar new fees have been implemented at nine CSU campuses and are under active consideration at [Dominguez Hills](#), [Fullerton](#), [San Diego](#) and [Fresno](#).

"CFA has a longstanding position against increases in student fees," says CFA President Lillian Taiz [http://www.calfac.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/CFA Resolution on Student Fee Hikes and a Fair Faculty Contract_2007.pdf](http://www.calfac.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/CFA%20Resolution%20on%20Student%20Fee%20Hikes%20and%20a%20Fair%20Faculty%20Contract_2007.pdf) "Proposition 30 passed in large part because voters believe in public support for our public higher ed system and the governor's budget plan for the next academic year calls for a four year freeze in student fees.

"We urge campus to join the campaign for more state funding for the state university instead of putting our students to go deeper into debt," she added.

Taiz noted that rising student debt has become a burden not only on individuals but also on state and national economies.

• [CNBC/New York Times analysis of student debt crisis](#)

Equity Conference to energize CFA activists



CFA's 2014 Equity Conference will be held March 7-8 in Los Angeles. The goal of the event is to energize faculty and academic support staff, who are creating a more accessible and equitable CSU, even as they work hard to provide world-class public higher education.

“By coming together collectively, members will not only be able to gain insight from one another’s experiences, but will take that knowledge back to campuses and further help and educate students,” said Cecil Canton, CFA’s associate vice president for affirmative action.

About 160 people are scheduled to attend the conference.

Jackson Potter of the Chicago Teachers Union will deliver the keynote address. State Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber will participate in a panel.

Conference attendees from all 23 campuses will participate in and lead workshops addressing the cutting-edge work of faculty and staff in creating a CSU dedicated to the value of education as a public good for which all Californians can benefit. Attendees will take back to their campuses best practices and strategies to help them in the important work they do.

Tuition-free public college idea gains momentum

A petition supporting free public higher education has attracted more than 105,000 signatures to date.

Recent data released by the U.S. Department of Education inspired the effort. The data showed that the cost of making college free is \$62.6 billion, less than the \$69 billion spent last year on Pell Grants for low-income students and work-study funding. These numbers do not include federal loan subsidies, according to the research.

Last year, the Campaign for the Future of Higher Education released three working papers that examine alternative approaches to higher ed funding. One, by Bob Samuels, president of the University of California-American Federation of Teachers, looks at what the actual cost of free higher education could be.

Click here to read the CFHE working paper “Making All Public Higher Education Free.” (<http://futureofhighered.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/CFHE-Working-Paper-Free-Higher-Ed.pdf>)

For more information on the free tuition petition, click here.

<http://www.credomobilize.com/petitions/make-public-college-tuition-free>)

Movie showing marks innovative approach to member outreach

If you show it, they will come.

CFA's Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Chapter found such wild success with a showing of Robert Reich's "Inequality for All" in November that leaders there repeated a showing of the film, including a live webinar with Reich beforehand, and are hoping to show the film again during the spring quarter.

The chapter is excited about the interest on campus about this film and so is planning a spring showing in an even larger room; they will be inviting other staff and students to participate, said Glen Thorncroft, chapter president.

He encourages other chapters to consider the film as a way to spark conversation and unite members.

"The movie will charge people up," he said. "It sells itself."

CFHE's online higher ed research in the news

CFHE's working papers on "The Promises of Online Higher Education" continue to gain attention, as they have been featured recently on The Huffington Post.

Click here to read "Online Higher Ed a Cost Savings for Students? Think Again"

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/susan-meisenhelder/online-higher-ed-a-cost-s_b_4782301.html).

Click here to read "Online Higher Ed's Profit Potential Aids in Driving Push Toward

'Innovation'" (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/susan-meisenhelder/online-higher-ed_b_4613191.html)

Faculty Rights Tip of the Week: Unpaid Leave and CalPERS Health Benefits



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

FACULTY RIGHTS TIP: Unpaid Leave & CalPERS Health Benefits

Did you know that if you take a leave of absence without pay for more than 15 working days you can continue with your health and dental benefit plan but you must pay the total cost of the benefits?

If you are taking an unpaid leave that exceeds fifteen working days, you will be responsible for making the monthly premium payments directly to your health plan.

Art. 22. 5 provides “(a)faculty unit employee on a leave of absence without pay for more than fifteen (15) working days may opt to continue his/her health and dental benefits at his/her own expense.”

If your unpaid leave will be longer than fifteen working days, you should contact your personnel office to enroll under direct pay in order to keep your health coverage during your leave of absence.

If you have questions, [contact your local CFA Faculty Rights 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.”

Links of the week

Lesley U. adjuncts vote to unionize

Lesley University adjuncts voted to form a union affiliated with SEIU, becoming the second group of Boston-area adjuncts to do so.—Inside Higher Education
<http://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2014/02/25/lesley-u-adjuncts-vote-form-union#ixzz2uMeU97Sw>

CFHE statement on the UIC faculty strike

Last week, faculty unions and supporters including CFA (<http://www.calfac.org/post/cfa-strongly-supports-faculty-strike-u-illinois-chicago>) issued statements of solidarity with the 2-day strikers at UIC. CFHE sent a statement of support and comment about what is happening to faculty across the U.S.—Campaign for the Future of Higher Ed
<http://futureofhighered.org/uic-united-faculty-strike-illustrates-challenges-facing-public-higher-education-nationwide/>

Public Radio Podcast: Today on Your Call: How is the corporatization of higher education affecting teachers?

Maria Maisto, adjunct English teacher and president of the New Faculty Majority, is among guests featured on the podcast, which examines how colleges are hiring part-time teachers to save costs and the impacts on higher ed.—KALW-FM

<http://kalw.org/post/today-your-call-how-corporatization-higher-education-affecting-teachers>

San Jose ruling on pensions could have ripple effect

A landmark ruling that invalidates key parts of San Jose's voter-approved pension cuts will prohibit the city from forcing employees to contribute significantly more toward their pensions but allows the city to cut salaries to offset increasing pension costs. —San Jose Mercury News

http://www.mercurynews.com/pensions/ci_24782960/pensions-city-workers-cant

AFL-CIO calls on states, feds to restore public higher ed funding for the good of the country

Post-secondary training and education should be more accessible and funding for public higher ed increased, according to the AFL-CIO.—AFL-CIO

<http://www.aflcio.org/About/Exec-Council/EC-Statements/Post-Secondary-Education-Accessibility>

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