

From the California Faculty Association

CFA HEADLINES

February 27, 2019 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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CFA supports Oakland teachers on strike

CFA activists are on the picket lines at Oakland schools, supporting teachers who are striking for educational justice for their students.

Oakland Education Association members have been on strike since Thursday, the latest in a wave of teacher strikes sweeping through California. Oakland teachers are calling for smaller class sizes, more support for students — including nurses, counselors, psychologists, and speech pathologists — living wages, and an end to school closures.

CFA officers, Cal State East Bay faculty, and CFA members from the Bay Area and beyond have been showing up on picket lines to march, lend help and support, and stand firm with our union colleagues, who were there with us during the months leading up to our potential CSU strike in 2016.



David Bacon of the Oakland strike actions.

“These are our not just our K-12 colleagues. These are our colleagues who educate the Oakland students who grow up to sit in our own classrooms at East Bay and throughout the CSU. Their fight is our fight,” said CFA President Jennifer Eagan, a professor at Cal State East Bay.

Faculty in the Bay Area: Let’s keep supporting our Oakland colleagues by joining them on the picket line and volunteering to help. [Click here to volunteer](#), and [click here](#) to see a daily list of actions.

[Click here](#) to view a photo gallery by photojournalist

Proposal to declare impaction at Cal State LA would disproportionately impact students of color



Students and faculty are [fighting campus officials' proposal](#) to declare impaction at Cal State LA, a move that could negatively impact prospective students from the surrounding areas, which are increasingly students of color and the first in their families to go to college.

Cal State LA President William Covino has proposed a [plan](#) to declare impaction at the campus, which would result in 600 fewer spots for new students and raise admissions requirements — including GPA and SAT and ACT scores — for fall 2020.

The proposal has ignited a firestorm of criticism about the plan, which many say is an effort to keep out local eligible students, who are increasingly Black and brown students. Current students, faculty, and staff are outraged, and about 1,000 students and more than 100 faculty and staff have signed on to [petitions](#) calling for a moratorium on the impaction plan.

“It’s righteous rage,” said Molly Talcott, CFA Chapter President at Cal State LA. “It’s a violation of shared governance, and it’s more austerity talk and cutting out students at a time when we’ve gotten a record-setting budget augmentation proposed by our governor.”

As educators, we are standing with our students to say this is a trend that is plaguing our university system and we can’t let it happen anymore. This is a real racial justice struggle, and it’s a class struggle. We can’t let the administration swoop in and quietly push their corporate-esque ideals.”

The Cal State LA Academic Senate discussed the proposed impaction plan at its meeting on Tuesday. [Click here](#) to read Talcott’s comments to the Academic Senate.

It’s also been a topic of debate at other community colleges in the area. The Academic Senate at East Los Angeles College, one of several feeder schools for Cal State LA, voted unanimously in opposition to Covino’s plan.

[Click here](#) to read an LA Times article about the plan.

New bill to make Ethnic Studies course a CSU graduation requirement introduced in Legislature

A new CFA-sponsored bill that would require the CSU to provide courses in ethnic studies at each of its 23 campuses and require students to complete one ethnic studies course to graduate was introduced Friday in the Assembly.

The bill, AB 1460, is authored by Assembly Member Dr. Shirley Weber, a former San Diego State University faculty and CFA member. If passed, the bill would add ethnic studies courses, including issues of race and gender and sexual identity, at all 23 campuses.

The bill also would require completion of one three-unit ethnic studies course to graduate, but it would not result in additional units, as students would be able to take the ethnic studies course in place of other electives.

“It is absolutely critical that all of our students have an opportunity to learn and engage in ethnic studies,” said CFA Vice President Charles Toombs, who teaches Africana Studies at San Diego State. “It’s in these classes that they gain a deeper understanding of different communities and their histories, struggles, and triumphs. And that, in turn, provides an opportunity to embrace a racial justice perspective.”

The bill was read for the first time on Monday and could be heard in committee as early as March 25.

Faculty Rights Tip: The Fee Waiver Program

The CSU Faculty Fee Waiver program is a valuable benefit for faculty members, our spouses, domestic partners, or dependent children up to age 25. [Article 26 of the contract](#) articulates the details of the Fee Waiver Program.

The benefit is available to all tenured and probationary faculty and temporary faculty (excluding coaches) with three-year appointments.

In the last contract, we bargained to extend the benefit to long-term coaches. Coaches who have at least six (6) consecutive years of service qualify for the benefit.

The benefit may be transferred to only one (1) spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child at a time, and there are specific fees that are excluded and included.

For more specific information you can read all of Article 26 or consult your campus benefits officer.

The waiver may not be applied to self-support courses taught in extended education, and there are some limits for use in doctoral programs, which are set out in Article 26.

Members themselves can take a maximum of two (2) CSU courses or six (6) units, whichever is greater, on the CSU fee waiver program per semester/quarter.

- If you have a faculty rights question, [contact your campus CFA faculty rights representative](#).
- 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.”

In Other News...

HELPING HANDS: California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara was at Chico State for two days last weekend to meet with Camp Fire victims and host free workshops.

The workshops, held in Laxson Auditorium, offered an opportunity for fire victims to ask questions about insurance coverage, the rebuilding process, and what resources are available to them, according to the [Chico Enterprise Record](#). One-on-one appointments with Department of Insurance experts also were offered over the weekend.



CFA Chico Chapter President Tim Sistrunk and CA Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara.

CFA sponsored snacks, coffee and water for the over 500 victims whom attended.

Lara, whom CFA endorsed in the November 2018 election, has said that the Department of Insurance will go to all lengths necessary to provide services to impacted residents. Lara is a graduate of San Diego State University.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: The CFA Capitol Chapter hosted a standing-room only talk with Miguel Fraga, the First Secretary of the Cuban Embassy, on Tuesday.

Ambassador Fraga spoke on the history of U.S.-Cuba relations, educated the audience about Cuban politics and culture, and spoke to the injustice of the economic embargo by the U.S. against the people of Cuba, a policy borne out of imperialist ambitions of the early 1960s.

The event was co-sponsored by the Centers for Diversity and Inclusion, Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution, The Serna Center, International Programs and Global Exchange, and the Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice.

Links of the Week

Americans don't realize state funding for higher ed is falling, new poll finds

[The Hechinger Report](#)

At a time when so many employers are struggling to find workers who have university degrees, Tyler Duffield thinks supporting higher education is as obvious an obligation of state government as it is essential.

Oakland teachers strike is about future of education

[San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Deborah Green is a scavenger.

The chairs in the Oakland Technical High School art teacher's classroom are a mix of plastic, wood and metal. Green said she didn't have enough seats for her students, and the school district wouldn't provide her with more. So she started bringing in chairs she found on sidewalks and street corners.

Hate Incidents on Campus Still Rising

[Inside Higher Education](#)

Incidents targeting students of color and of different sexualities and religions continue to plague campuses, and the number of incidents appears to be increasing, according to a new report.

Where the 2020 candidates stand on student debt and college affordability

[MarketWatch](#)

When Barack Obama ran for president for the last time in 2012, sweeping reform of our college financing system wasn't even on his agenda, let alone that of his Republican opponent Mitt Romney.

Denver: immigrant teachers threatened with deportation if they join strikes

[The Guardian](#)

Immigrant educators are being threatened with deportation if they attempt to join the wave of teachers' strikes hitting the US.

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