From the California Faculty Association

CFA HEADLINES
May 24, 2017 · Weekly news digest from CFA

• CFA to Trustees: Protect our students, fight for more funding!
• Take action now! Tell lawmakers to fund the $325 million budget increase
• Last faculty meeting about bargaining to be held this week
• Cuts to higher ed spending among casualties in proposed federal budget plan
• CFA delegates help educate CA Democratic Convention about CSU, student needs
• Faculty Rights Tip: The 125% rule
• Links of the Week

CFA to Trustees: Protect our students, fight for more funding!

CFA leaders didn't mince any words this week, telling the CSU Board of Trustees that they failed the university system by not fighting harder for funding for the 2017-18 year and not doing more to protect undocumented students.

In his May Revise to the budget, Gov. Jerry Brown took $4 million out of the CSU augmentation, stating that because Trustees had already decided to raise student fees, it would mean the state would have to pay more for Cal Grants.

“The faculty have and will continue to fight for additional funding,” CFA President Jennifer Eagan said. “We want you to know, as we move into the next budget cycle, that you cannot continually remove the pressure from the governor to take responsibility for a great public university by squeezing the students.”

“You need to stand firm— and stand with all of us—to demand that the state that benefits so greatly from the work we all do has to step up and fully fund the CSU,” Eagan said.

Faculty also relayed the real implications of bad decisions—the very real toll it can have on students.
Cal State LA Professor Molly Talcott told Trustees that Claudia Rueda, a student and immigration rights activist on her campus, was DACA-eligible but couldn’t come up with the $500 needed to apply due to soaring tuition costs. On Thursday, May 18, Rueda was detained by border patrol while she moved her family’s car outside their East Los Angeles home.

“As the saying goes, voting has consequences, and something I urge you to reflect on as we move forward as advocates for the students and public higher education,” Talcott said. “And yes, my voice is shaking because our hearts are smashed at Cal State LA, and the removal of a wonderful student from our campus and community is devastating.”

CFA issued a statement calling for Trustees to take action to support undocumented students and ensure free speech remains protected on campuses throughout California.

Trustees were also urged to support Assembly Bill 21, authored by Assemblymember Ash Kalra, which would protect undocumented students in the CSU and the state’s community colleges. The bill is sponsored by CFA.

CFA activists also communicated concerns to Trustees about the state auditor’s report, the need to support legislation that would increase tenure density, and problems that would be triggered by changes to Title V.

The change proposed would eliminate the 40-unit upper division course requirement, resulting in less in-depth, writing-intensive courses, less funding for programs that have smaller numbers of majors, and less time spent completing degrees in the CSU.

“This is expansion of a bad idea,” said Professor Cecil Canton, Associate VP of Affirmative Action for CFA. “This generation of students have already been cheated enough in the education they receive from the CSU; this is just one more avenue to a cheapened degree from the People’s University.”

Take action now! Tell lawmakers to fund the $325 million budget increase

As talks surrounding the state budget for 2017-18 intensify among lawmakers in the Capitol, faculty, students, and community allies are sending thousands of emails to legislators, urging them to increase funding for the CSU next fiscal year.
Gov. Jerry Brown failed to include in his May revise of his budget plan the $325 million requested by the CSU. His plan even decreased the CSU’s requested augmentation by $4 million.

Legislators have been meeting and making recommendations about CSU funding for this next fiscal year, and we need you to urge them to fully fund the $325 million requested by the CSU.

Last week, the state Senate agreed with the governor’s revised CSU budget, but added $25 million in one-time funding for the graduation initiative program.

This week, the state Assembly Subcommittee on Education Finance took a different approach, adding back the $4 million cut by the governor, and increasing the CSU augmentation by $38.5 million to increase student enrollment by 1 percent.

The subcommittee also approved $25 million in one-time Graduation Initiative funding, $25 million for deferred maintenance, $5 million for one-time mental health services funding, and $2.5 million to fund programs to combat student hunger.

Those amounts fall short of the $325 million requested, which is critical funding that would help maintain programs, hire faculty, and stave off 5% tuition hikes for CSU students. We need you to take action now!

Assemblymember Jose Medina, who is a member of the committee, abstained from voting on the budget proposal, saying that he would not vote on the budget unless it froze tuition for CSU students.

“As chair of Higher Education, and also in this committee, we heard a lot of testimony from students on the burden of fees, and I find it somewhat ironic that in our budget, we’re addressing the issue of student hunger at the same time that we continue to raise fees,” Medina said. “Without freezing the fees I will not be voting on this budget.”

It only takes about 30 seconds to write your Assemblymember and Senator and encourage them to reinvest in the CSU.

Click here now to make your voice heard as final revisions to the budget are being negotiated.
Last faculty meeting about bargaining to be held this week

Last but not certainly not least in the lineup of faculty meetings on bargaining is one at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo this week.

The meeting, which is open to CFA members, will be held from 11 am to 1 pm on Thursday, May 25, in Building 2, Room 204.

The meetings are a great opportunity to learn more about upcoming faculty contract negotiations, and learn more about how the union is building the power of the members.

Last week, more than 50 faculty participated in the meeting at Cal State LA, where benefits, intellectual property, and economic freedom were topics of interest, said Molly Talcott, CFA Chapter President at Cal State LA and incoming Associate VP South.

“At the conclusion of a hectic final week of classes, dozens of engaged members carved out time for a creative discussion about how together, we will tackle the coming challenges on campus, at the bargaining table, and in the national political landscape,” Talcott said.

Cuts to Higher Ed spending among casualties in proposed federal budget plan

Education at every level is slated to be hit with drastic cuts courtesy of the Trump Administration’s proposed federal spending plan for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

The plan, released Tuesday May 23, calls for $9.2 billion in cuts to K-12 and higher education, while also including expansion of funding for school vouchers and charter schools.

In higher education, the proposed spending plan means major changes to college affordability and access. The plan calls for slashing the federal program that grants loan forgiveness for borrowers after 10 years of work in public sector jobs, as well as less funding for work-study programs.

It also would cut $1 billion by eliminating federal loan subsidies for interest on student loans, which would impact low-income students most dramatically.

The cuts to higher ed spending allegedly would generate $143 billion over 10 years, according to reports.
“It is clear that the Trump administration is committed to doing everything it can to undermine the ability of working people to improve their lives and move into the middle class. At the same time, they seem determined to ensure that there is no middle class for them to join,” said Lillian Taiz, Chair of CFA's Political Action/Legislation Committee.

“Unfortunately, there will be terrible consequences for all of us if we do not have the educated workforce and informed citizenry that our economy and society needs to thrive. Now more than ever we have to be ready to resist and persist—CFA is committed to the fight.”

Congress must finalize the budget plan, but many are skeptical that it would pass in its current form.

Read more about the proposed spending plan from NPR and The Atlantic’s reports.

CFA delegates help educate CA Democratic Convention about CSU, student needs

Dozens of faculty spent time educating fellow Democrats about the need for increased CSU funding and protecting affordability and access to higher education during the California Democratic Convention held last weekend in Sacramento.

On Friday afternoon, while CFA Treasurer Susan Green and CFA San Diego member Doreen Mattingly were tabling, California Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom came by the CFA booth.

Mattingly, who is chair of the Women’s Studies at San Diego State, said they spoke with Newsom about advocating for CSU students and college affordability, and voting against the student fee hike during the March Board of Trustees meeting.

Mattingly likened the convention to “political Disneyland.”

“As a social scientist who writes about politics, part of me was fascinated to observe everything, but meeting the gubernatorial candidates and the big players was the most exciting part for me,” she said. “We need a governor who'll stand up for the CSU and higher education.”

On Saturday, CFA was honored by the California Young Democrats for its work on behalf of students for accessible, affordable, quality public higher education. The award,
accepted by CFA President Jennifer Eagan, also honored the union’s work around Assembly Bill 393 to #StopTheFees on our students.

California State Treasurer and Candidate for Governor John Chiang presented the award, and thanked CFA for working hard for CSU students.

CFA had a prime spot in the Sacramento Convention Center, where our union activists passed out findings from the our latest report, “Equity, Interrupted: How California Is Cheating Its Future,” and encouraged delegates to send messages to legislators in support of increased CSU funding and key legislation to protect the CSU.

CFA had 22 current and active members that were elected or appointed to serve as delegates to the California Democratic Party Convention, and 13 of them volunteered to help promote CFA’s legislative campaigns with a two-hour commitment to staff the booth.

Thank you to all the CFA volunteers who dedicated time and energy to the convention: Cecile Bendavid, Raj Singh, Brigitte Davila, Doreen Mattingly, Susan Green, Samila Amanyraoufpoor, Iyad Afalqa, Sean Boyd, Uduak-Joe Ntuk, Michael Costello, Jennie Quinonez-Skinner, Nichelle Henderson, Preston Rudy, and John Griffin.

Thank you for your activism!

**Faculty Rights Tip: The 125% Rule**

When faculty are hired, they’re often told that there are opportunities for additional employment in the summer or other “special sessions.” For many faculty, this additional employment is a critical part of their income.

Article 36 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement covers the rules for additional work and places a limitation on that “overage” to 25% of a full-time position.

Any additional work in the CSU is limited to 25% of a full-time position, so it is often called the “125% rule.”

“Outside” employment is separate topic, covered in Article 35, and one we’ll address in another edition of Headlines.

- If you have questions 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.”
- See previous Faculty Rights Tips on a range of topics in our contract.
**Links of the Week**

**Cal State student, an activist, detained**
*Inside Higher Ed*
A California State University, Los Angeles, student and immigration activist was detained Thursday by federal immigration authorities in what some see as retaliation for her protesting the arrest of her mother, the Los Angeles Times reported. Federal authorities said Claudia Rueda was one of seven people arrested as part of an investigation into “a cross-border narcotics smuggling operation,” but that all seven had been arrested for suspected immigration violations, not drug-related offenses.

**The conservative force behind speeches roiling college campuses**
*New York Times*
BUFFALO — “Let’s give it up for the racists that are hosting this event!” someone yelled, and the crowd roared, foot-stomping in unison, then breaking into song: Woody Guthrie’s “This Land Is Your Land.” One member of the audience held up a sign, “Queers Against Islamophobia.” Another unfurled a banner: “Muslims Welcome. Fascists Get Out.”

**Trump Budget Cuts Programs for Poor While Sparing Many Older People**
*New York Times*
President Trump’s spending blueprint seeks to balance the federal budget through unprecedented cuts to programs for poor and working-class families, effectively pitting them against older Americans who would largely escape the budget ax. In ways large and small, the budget, to be released Tuesday, seeks to curtail spending on poorer recipients of government largess. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known commonly as food stamps, would be cut by $192 billion over the next decade.

**What Trump’s proposed 2018 budget would mean for Higher Ed**
*Chronicle of Higher Ed*
The Trump administration on Tuesday released its budget proposal for the 2018 fiscal year. All told, the budget would cut federal education programs by more than $10 billion. The Department of Education’s total operating budget would be slashed by $9 billion, and spending on secondary-education programs would be redirected to school-choice initiatives — the chief policy goal of Betsy DeVos, the education secretary.

**State audit raises concerns about CSU hiring practices**
*The Pioneer*
The 23-campus Cal State University system will revise some of its management policies following a state audit that discovered discrepancies in hiring and budgetary practices last month.

**The Alt-Reich next door**
*Inside Higher Ed*
White U of Maryland student, who officials say was a member of white supremacist group on Facebook, is charged in fatal stabbing of a black Bowie State student, leaving others questioning how safe they are.

**US Widening Income Gap Hits Close to Home**
*CSULA University Times*
The California Faculty Association reports the average Full-Time CSU Lecturer salary as $56,781 in 2015.

**California State University set to scrap placement tests**
*The San Jose Mercury News*
The move has sparked concern from faculty worried about underprepared students.

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