Welcome back Faculty Union Activists! It’s a new year, a new academic term, and a new chance to continue to build our collective strength and power. Know any faculty colleagues who aren’t yet a part of CFA? Encourage them to join today!

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CFA’s hard work pays off: Governor proposes unprecedented funding increase to 2019-20 CSU budget

History was made last week when Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed an unprecedented eight percent increase in state funding for the CSU budget in 2019-20. It marks the first time in CSU history that such a powerful investment would be made, and signals the value of CFA’s years of political work and activism.

For decades, the CSU has been chronically underfunded, and CFA and Students for Quality Education were on the frontlines, advocating to increase the state’s support of the People’s University and to stave off tuition increases.

Gov. Newsom listened. This budget proposal explicitly states that the additional funding is predicated on a tuition freeze in the CSU, in an effort to make sure college remains affordable.

Newsom’s proposal is a $562 million increase to the CSU’s budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year. Of that, $300 million would be new, ongoing funding, while the remaining $262 million would be one-time funding for various programs, deferred maintenance, and special initiatives such as addressing student hunger and homelessness.
The greater investment in the CSU makes clear the distinction between former Gov. Jerry Brown — who proposed a paltry $92 million in increased funding for the CSU last January — and Gov. Newsom, who served eight years as a CSU Trustee. During that time, he took an active role in opposing tuition increases and fought alongside CFA for increased CSU funding.

“It’s a new day for the CSU,” said CFA President Jennifer Eagan. “This is an unprecedented start and a serious investment in our students and faculty.

“We’ll be right there to ensure the CSU administration uses this money wisely, especially since it was faculty and students who’ve been fighting for years to help lawmakers see the deep need for investment in the CSU.”

CFA’s advocacy in coming months will focus on increased student access to the CSU, dedicated funding to hire more tenure-track faculty, and securing funds that would improve mental health counselor-to-student ratios on campus.

Gov. Newsom has committed himself to our university system, and that dedication is why CFA was an early supporter of his bid for governor. It is why CFA activists spent hours working to promote his candidacy, and it is why we hosted a campaign stop at San Diego State, where he talked to students and faculty about his commitment to the CSU, labor unions, and California.

“We are a force of good for the CSU, and this investment by Gov. Newsom is evidence of that,” said CFA Vice President Charles Toombs, who hosted the San Diego State event. “This is why labor unions are a public good. You don’t get to have as strong of an education system if you don’t have a union. When we fight, we win.”

The proposed increase to the CSU budget will be among topics CFA leaders will address at the CSU Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 22 during the 1 p.m. discussion by the Committee on Finance. You can watch the meeting live here.

The electoral work that resulted in the proposed budget increase doesn’t happen without CFA. Join thousands of us who stand committed to fairness for faculty and to ensuring our increasingly diverse student body receives the quality higher education they deserve. It’s time to join CFA today!

**Activists to hold actions, speak to CSU Trustees next week about need for Justice4Josiah**

Two years ago this month, 19-year-old David Josiah Lawson hugged his mother for the last time before heading back to Humboldt State University.

Just a few months later, Lawson was murdered outside a party near campus. Nearly two years have passed, but charges have never been filed. His family still waits for justice.
Next week, faculty and students will join with the Justice for Josiah Lawson Committee and community activists to highlight safety issues that continue to plague the campus, as well as continue the call for justice for Josiah Lawson and his family.

The People’s March for Justice, a march in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and in acknowledgement that racism and injustice continue to exist, will be held at 10 am Monday, January 21, at the Humboldt County Courthouse.

CFA also is planning to talk to the CSU Board of Trustees about growing dangers associated with extremist activists who target faculty and staff, and the need for the CSU to better support students of color.

“The CSU is actively recruiting students of color into these more rural campus climates—we have to make sure that there are resources there for them, that there is a plan to address racist incidents on campus, and that work is being done to make our campuses more inclusive,” said Sharon Elise, CFA’s Associate Vice President of Affirmative Action South.

“David Josiah Lawson was a student at a campus in a mostly white, rural community that has long had problems with racism. He died a horrific death. We must do all we can to help his family find justice, and to ensure our students of color return home safely to their families.”

Click here to learn more about CFA’s efforts to seek justice for Josiah, including a ‘Radio Free CSU’ podcast featuring Josiah’s mother, Charmaine Lawson, and a video highlighting the case.

K-12 teachers strike to protect public ed, need our help

CFA activists are answering the call to support our K-12 colleagues in Southern and Northern California, where contract battles are underway to protect public education and improve faculty working conditions.

In Los Angeles, thousands of United Teachers of Los Angeles members went on strike Monday, holding picket lines in front of schools and a rally in downtown that drew more than 60,000 teachers, parents, community members, and labor allies.

Heavy rain and cold temperatures couldn’t dampen spirits of CFA activists, who joined with teachers on the picket line, just as teachers did in the run-up to our CSU strike in 2016.

UTLA members have been working without a contract for nearly a year and are locked in a contract fight with LA Unified School District. The district is claiming that it does not have the money to lower class sizes, hold charter schools accountable, and invest in vital staffing.

Top: CFA Fullerton Chapter members were on the picket line to support UTLA teachers in Wilmington. Bottom: CSULA CFA Chapter activists hit the picket line at El Sereno Middle School.
and educational programs, despite having $1.86 billion in reserves and Gov. Newsom’s 2019-20 budget proposal including healthy levels of funding for K-12 education.

Fullerton CFA Chapter President Gregory Chris Brown was on the picket line Monday at Harry Bridges Span School in Wilmington with his chapter colleagues.

“We will support our teachers, our UTLA family. We will be on the picket line, rain or shine.”

CFA activists are encouraged to join with their chapter on a designated picket line and help our union siblings see the strike through to victory at the bargaining table. Click here for a listing of picket locations and details.

In Northern California, teachers in Oakland are preparing for a potential strike and are asking fellow educators, students, and allies to participate in an Art Build January 18-20.

Oakland Education Association members have been working without a contract since July 2017, and teachers there are demanding smaller class sizes and salary increases, which would help attract and retain faculty. The Oakland Education Association and Oakland Unified School District have entered factfinding, the final step in impasse process. The OEA Executive Board has authorized a strike vote and a strike could be initiated in late January or early February.

CFA East Bay members participated in an OEA rally on Saturday, and activists in the Bay Area are encouraged to join colleagues the Art Build. Images created will be displayed and some used on banners, drop banners, parachute banners, screen printed posters, t-shirts, and screen-printed picket signs. Click here for more information.

Faculty Rights Tip of the Week: Lecturers & Canceled Classes

Here’s a timely tip for Lecturers who may be assigned to a class that gets canceled in the first few weeks of the term (from Article 12.5):

“… If a class is canceled prior to the third class meeting, the temporary employee shall be paid the portion of the term worked prior to the cancellation.

“If a class is canceled after the third class meeting, the temporary employee shall either be paid for the remaining portion of the class assignment or provided an alternate work assignment…”

Once the third class has met, the Lecturer is entitled to be paid for the entire term, even if the class is canceled.

Want to learn more? Become active with your local CFA chapter faculty rights team. Find your representative here.

If you have questions about a faculty rights tip or would like to suggest a tip, please write us at cfa@calfac.org with the subject line “Faculty Rights Tip.”
In Other News…

COURT SUPPORT: CFA activists in the LA area are encouraged to support fellow CFA colleague, Cal State LA Professor Melina Abdullah, on Tuesday, January 22 at the LA County Courthouse.

Dr. Abdullah, who is a Black Lives Matter Los Angeles leader, routinely attends police commission meetings to speak and engage in civic activism. She is being targeted for holding police accountable for their actions.

Abdullah was arrested on suspicion of battery on a police officer and resisting arrest during a police commission hearing. Police also arrested the aunt of Wakeisha Wilson during the meeting after allegedly having thrown ashes at the police chief. Wilson died while LAPD custody in 2016.

Abdullah denies the police allegations, and said she had just walked into the meeting when they were arresting Sheila Brim, Wilson’s aunt.

“As they were arresting her, one of the officers yelled ‘Arrest Melina!’” she said in a Good Day LA interview.

Faculty can support her by participating in a demonstration at 8:30 am, Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 210 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, Department 46. CFA activists also are encouraged to call LA City Attorney Mike Feuer at (213) 978-8100 and insist that charges against Abdullah be dropped.

To watch the television interview with Abdullah, click here.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The CSU Board of Trustees is scheduled to discuss the CSU budget and the governor’s budget proposal during its meeting January 22-23 in Long Beach. CFA leaders will be at the meeting to comment on the state budget and Gov. Gavin Newsom’s support for the CSU.

The budget will be discussed during the Committee on Finance, which will begin at 1 pm Tuesday, Jan. 22. The Board also is set to receive regular reports on student financial aid and transfer students, discuss donor support, and will consider support for a facilities bond for 2020 and authorizing a doctorate in occupational therapy.

To watch the meeting live, click here.

Links of the Week

The LAUSD teachers strike proves we’re failing a generation of students
Los Angeles Daily News
On Monday, Los Angeles teachers went on strike, joining educators in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Colorado who walked off the job last year. This growing wave of teacher strikes confirms what most of us already knew: education in our country is broken.
LA Teachers Strike Diary: Day One
Capital & Main
Laura Palacios is a Los Angeles public school teacher married to another teacher. Today the mother of two joined 33,000 other union members in the first L.A. teachers walkout since 1989. This week Capital & Main will follow Palacios during the strike.

What's really at stake in the Los Angeles teachers’ strike
NY Times
For decades, public schools were part of California's lure, key to the promise of opportunity. Forty years ago, with the lightning speed characteristic of the Golden State, all of that changed.
In the fall of 1978, after years of bitter battles to desegregate Los Angeles classrooms, 1,000 buses carried more than 40,000 students to new schools. Within six months, the nation's second-largest school district lost 30,000 students, a good chunk of its white enrollment. The busing stopped; the divisions deepened.

My professor couldn't pay rent, so she moved in with me
The Guardian
As a student, I didn’t think much about my professors, how much money they were making or what their lives were like. That was until the end of last semester.
Last spring, I signed up for a course on gender roles. The class was so interesting, I’d often stay after to talk and I eventually became friends with my professor. During finals, I noticed that she seemed stressed out. I was shocked to learn why: my professor was about to lose her place and have to live in her car.

Charmaine Lawson: DNA evidence identifies son's killer
NorthCoast Journal
The mother of slain Humboldt State University sophomore David Josiah Lawson took to Facebook this morning to express frustration that the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office still hasn't made a charging decision in her son's case two months after the Arcata Police Department handed over its investigation.

This is what an antiracist America would look like. How do we get there?
The Guardian
Opposing racism is not the same as building an antiracist society. Our new series, Antiracism and America, looks at the structures that sustain a racist society - and how we dismantle them.

California Gov. Newsom’s budget proposal increases state funding, freezes tuition
Education Dive
California's two- and four-year public colleges could get a boost from the 2019-20 state budget proposed by its new governor, Gavin Newsom, but they will also be required to freeze tuition.

Millions of college students are going hungry
The Atlantic
As the costs of college have climbed, some students have gone hungry. When they've voiced frustration, they've often been ridiculed: “Ramen is cheap,” or “Just eat cereal.”

Stunning departure at Chapel Hill
Inside Higher Ed
Carol Folt announces she has ordered removal of Confederate plaques and that she is stepping down. System board leader criticizes her actions.

Takedown of online education
Inside Higher Education
Online education has not lived up to its potential, according to a new report, which said fully online course work contributes to socioeconomic and racial achievement gaps while failing to be more affordable than traditional courses.
Canadian air traffic controllers send pizza to US counterparts amid government shutdown

USA Today

Union air traffic controllers in Canada attempted to relieve some of the stress of the U.S. government shutdown with pizza. "Pizza makes everyone smile. Proud to help even a little bit!" the Canadian Air Traffic Control Association tweeted Sunday. "Our members have sent over 300 pizzas so far!" an additional tweet read.

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