Faculty meetings launch today — find your meeting and learn more!

The first of many CFA Faculty Meetings begin this week, and with them opportunities to learn more about what our union is doing to improve the CSU, our working conditions, and advocate for racial and social justice on all 23 campuses.

The meetings will be especially helpful for newer faculty who have joined the CSU in the past few years, and will highlight our successful contract fights, work to increase state funding for the CSU, and legislation that improves the People’s University.

“It’s important for us to come together as union colleagues and see how far we’ve come, which will in turn help us envision our future,” said Molly Talcott, CFA Associate Vice President South. “Our track record at the bargaining table and in the Legislature speaks to how much strength we have when we are united. We want to build upon that success, and we want these meetings to help inform members about how we build that power.”

Click here to see a listing of meetings by campus.

The first CFA Faculty Meeting was held at today at Fresno, followed by meetings on Thursday, Oct. 11 at Channel Islands and San Bernardino, and a meeting on Friday, Oct. 12 at Bakersfield. A full list of meetings, including times and locations, is available here.
In the latest episode of our podcast, Radio Free CSU focuses on the story of David Josiah Lawson, a Humboldt State student who was murdered near campus on April 15, 2017.

To date, his homicide remains unsolved, and we have joined with Josiah Lawson’s family and others in urging Attorney General Xavier Becerra to take over the investigation.

In the podcast, Radio Free CSU host Audrena Redmond talks with Charmaine Lawson, Josiah’s mother, about her son, his journey as a student, and the need to better protect all students in the CSU, especially students of color.

Josiah Lawson, a Criminology and Justice Studies student, was active in the campus community and president of Brothers United, a group that formed as a result of the unsolved murder of a Black Humboldt student, Cory Clark in 2001. The group’s goal was to provide support for Black men in the predominately white institution and white area in which they felt unsupported.

“Once DJ got accepted, I went online and I checked out the archive of what’s going in Humboldt...Where am I sending my son?” she said. “All I saw was positive vibration. There was nothing of concern. But I think I wouldn’t have sent my son to Humboldt if I knew that he was going into a climate of discrimination and microaggression. I would have not done it. But I believe DJ would have still went because he wanted to change the world.”

Click here to listen to the podcast today.

CFA and Students for Quality Education are holding a Week of Action Oct. 15-19, which signifies the 18-month anniversary of his death.

At Sacramento State, CFA and SQE on Thursday evening are hosting a showing of “Unsolved Hate,” a documentary that explains the Lawson case and the history and atmosphere in the Arcata community. At CSU Fullerton, SQE has planned a week of activities that include a banner drop, teach-in, vigil, and literature blast.

To view a list of actions by campus, click here.
Voting has begun: political action season in full swing

There are less than four weeks until the Nov. 6 election and CFA activists are hard at work volunteering time and energy to ensure that candidates who will stand up for the CSU are elected.

This week, vote-by-mail ballots are arriving, so now is the time to read through the list of CFA-endorsed candidates for statewide and local office.

Faculty activists are phone banking, walking precincts, texting, tabling, and talking to colleagues and students about the importance of voting, and voting for candidates who will advocate for continued state reinvestment in the CSU.

“It is so important that we all volunteer these next few weeks,” said Kim Geron, a Cal State East Bay Professor and CFA activist. “We need leaders who understand the value of quality public higher education, and who will fight with us to maintain appropriate funding for our system.”

One candidate we are fiercely advocating for is Tony Thurmond, who is running for Superintendent of Public Instruction. Thurmond, a social worker and Assemblymember, fought with us in our Fight for Five campaign to improve faculty salaries, and in our work last spring to increase state funding for the CSU after decades of disinvestment as our student population grew increasingly diverse.

Thurmond would be an ex officio member of the CSU Board of Trustees if elected.

“I’m tired of the false narrative that the state cannot fund public higher education. If our budget reflects our values, then our values must shift to education and not incarceration,” Thurmond said.

Click here to watch a College Affordability Town Hall held at UC San Diego on Oct. 4 featuring Thurmond.

To get involved in political action with your chapter, click here.

It’s not too late to register to vote: Even though ballots are going out to those who are registered to vote-by-mail, it is not too late for individuals to register to vote or update their voter registration to participate in the Nov. 6 election. Individuals can register or re-register through Oct. 22 at registertovote.ca.gov. It only takes about three minutes to complete.
Faculty Rights Tip of the Week: Peer Review Committees for Tenure-Line Hiring

Under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement's Article 12.22, "[e]ach department or equivalent unit must elect a peer review committee of tenured employees for the purpose of reviewing and recommending individuals for probationary appointments."

The Peer Review Committee may not be “appointed” by a chair or any administrator; there must be an election by the faculty unit employees within the department. Failure to hold such an election or any administrative efforts intended to deprive faculty of input in the hiring process for tenure line faculty, is a violation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

While the ultimate hiring decision lies with the President of each campus, faculty participation and input in the process is a right and necessary to ensure fairness in the process.

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.”
- Click here to read past Faculty Rights Tips.

In Other News…

MORE ON #JUSTICE4JOSIAH: CSU Chancellor Tim White held a news conference at Humboldt State on Tuesday, Oct. 9, to discuss the CSU’s role in seeking Justice for David Josiah Lawson and the recent announcement that President Lisa Rossbacher will be retiring after the 2018-19 academic year.

White told reporters he met with officials, including the District Attorney and police chief, on Monday about the case, but could not disclose details. He also said that conversations with student groups about improving safety and well-being for students of color at Humboldt are underway.

Click here to watch the Facebook Live video.

ACTIVISM CENTRAL: CSU Fullerton Chapter President Gregory “Chris” Brown and activist Jarret Lovell had a chance to meet former Vice President Joe Biden during an invite-only event on Oct. 4 at the Titan Student Union.

Biden was at the event, hosted by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, to support local Democratic congressional candidates. Click here to
VOTER INFO: The Nov. 6 date looms large in our minds, but don’t forget to register or re-register to vote by Oct. 22! Click here to register to vote now.

Links of the Week

The murder of David Josiah Lawson
Inside Higher Ed
It’s been 17 months since David Josiah Lawson, a black student at Humboldt State University, was killed at an off-campus party in the mostly white town of Arcata in Northern California. Since then, local police have arrested and released one suspect. The investigation has stalled. Press attention, which was minimal outside of Arcata to begin with, has languished. Lawson’s mother, Charmaine Lawson, continues to push the Arcata Police Department and the university to solve her son’s murder, but she’s fighting an uphill battle.

Cal State Long Beach museum director ousted from position
Press Telegram
Kimberli Meyer, the Cal State Long Beach University Art Museum director since 2016, was terminated from the position just days before the launch of an exhibition she helped create.

DeVos misses rulemaking deadline; teachers sue loan servicer; Detroit students strike
NPR
Education Secretary Betsy DeVos will miss next month’s deadline to repeal and replace two rules intended to prevent predatory practices at for-profit colleges.

As more universities drop SAT and ACT requirements, Cal State chancellor asks for a closer look
LA Times
California State University Chancellor Timothy P. White said Wednesday that he has asked academic leaders to study whether the SAT and ACT are valid predictors of student success, raising hopes that the nation’s largest public university system will ultimately drop standardized test scores as admission requirements.

In the ashes of Northern California wildfires, Sonoma State University president finds a treasure
North Bay Business Journal
There is little disagreement that the more courses students take each semester, the more likely they are to graduate on time, but much debate has centered on how to encourage students in that direction.

California Candidates for Governor Finally Debate. Here’s What We Learned.
New York Times
The two candidates for governor of California — Gavin Newsom, the Democratic lieutenant governor, and John Cox, a Republican business executive — met on Monday for their one and only scheduled debate of the campaign. (We will take what we can get.) Here are a few things we learned from their civil 60-minute session moderated by the journalist Scott Shafer on KQED, a public radio station in San Francisco. Californians can’t complain about not having a choice.

That California election ballot ‘correction’ you got for Prop. 6 isn’t from the government
Sacramento Bee
With mail ballots set to arrive at California voters’ homes starting this week, the gas tax repeal campaign recently sent out 2 million leaflets that “correct” the ballot title and description for its initiative. The official ballot title for Proposition 6 — which begins “Eliminates Certain Road Repair and Transportation Funding” — has caused much consternation for its supporters.
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