CFA HEADLINES
November 13, 2013 · Weekly news digest from CFA

- CFA, CSU management set dates to start talks on next faculty contract
- CFA/CFHE testify at U.S. Dept of Ed hearing on future of higher ed
- Faculty Rights Tip of the Week: Non-Discrimination
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CFA, CSU management set dates to start talks on next faculty contract

CFA’s Bargaining Team and CSU management agreed last week to begin talks in December on the next faculty contract. More dates were set for meetings in January and February.

The CFA team will gather this week to refine CFA’s proposals in preparation for the first meeting.

Andy Merrifield, chair of CFA’s Bargaining Team, praised the efforts of CFA members who weighed in publicly about the need to get negotiations started quickly.

“This is the first time in anyone's memory that we have opened contract talks this early,” says Merrifield.

“Since spring, we have discussed with CFA member-leaders our goal of getting started before the end of the year,” he says. “We are pleased that the Chancellor and his representatives have agreed to begin talks now, seven months before the expiration of our current contract on June 30, 2014.”

CFA/CFHE testify at U.S. Dept of Ed hearing on future of higher ed

CFA’s Dominguez Hills chapter leader Vivian Price testified at a Dept. of Education hearing last week saying, “We urge the President to provide leadership in facing the social cost we are paying for accepting decreased funding for higher education as the ‘new normal’ in America.”
She spoke on behalf of the Campaign for the Future of Higher Education, which is made up of 65 higher ed faculty and staff organizations in the U.S., including CFA.

The hearing at CSUDH was the first of four to be held in various parts of the nation by the U.S. Dept. of Education on President Obama’s Plan for Higher Education.

Price referred to papers produced by faculty with the support of CFHE that suggested creative ways to ensure adequate funding of public higher ed.

“The bottom line in our reports is this: it would take only a relatively small commitment of resources to restore higher education funding to previous norms. But we need the President and the Department of Education’s leadership to get these alternatives on the table for consideration.”

Price summarized the findings of CFHE papers about “The ‘Promises’ of Online Education,” which argue that use of technology needs to be critiqued and shaped with the same seriousness and commitment to quality higher education that is done with any other teaching methodology.

Price concluded saying higher ed faculty and staff “hunger for change that will expand opportunities for a rich college experience and that will enable us to better prepare students for full participation in our democratic society. We look forward to working toward that goal as we also work to preserve the diversity and freedom that have made the American higher education system the envy of the world.”

More U.S. Dept of Education hearings were set for Nov. 13 at George Mason University in Virginia, Nov. 15 at the University of Northern Iowa and Nov. 21 at Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge.

See the full text of Price’s statement on behalf of CFHE.

See Campaign for the Future of Higher Ed working papers on public funding for higher education and on the promises of online higher ed.

Faculty Rights Tip of the Week: Non-discrimination

This weekly CFA Headlines feature offers a brief “faculty rights tip” or short information piece about the faculty contract.

FACULTY RIGHTS TIP: NON-DISCRIMINATION

Did you know that our collective bargaining agreement contains a provision that protects us from workplace discrimination?

Article 16.1 prohibits discrimination against any faculty unit employee on the basis of race,
color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, pregnancy, age, disability, medical condition, or veteran status.

If you believe you’ve been subjected to workplace discrimination talk to one of CFA’s campus CFA faculty rights representatives immediately. They can help you determine whether you have a legitimate claim and what your next steps should be.

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

Adjuncts Launch Union Bids at Two Southern California Colleges
Adjuncts at Whittier College and the University of La Verne, both in Southern California, have filed for a union election with the Service Employees International Union as part of its Adjunct Action project. The national campaign aims to organize adjuncts across metro areas and regionally. — Inside Higher Education

Push is on to close college gap for California's Latinos
A study shows Latinos lag behind other Californians in finishing college. Educators are seeking ways to boost Latino graduation rates. — Los Angeles Times

Will MOOCs Change the Way Professors Handle the Classroom?
Buried in all the hype about MOOCs is a somewhat surprising admission by some of the world's leading universities—that their teaching methods may not be very good. — The Chronicle of Higher Education

For-profit schools taking advantage of veterans, Mississippi Center for Justice charges
For-profit schools prey on Mississippi veterans by getting their education assistance benefits but providing, in turn, an inferior education, charges the nonprofit Mississippi Center for Justice. — The Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Mississippi)

Michelle Obama Edges Into a Policy Role on Higher Education
WASHINGTON — Michelle Obama, after nearly five years of evangelizing exercise and good eating habits, will begin a new initiative on Tuesday that seeks to increase the number of low-income students who pursue a college degree. The goals of the program reflect the first lady’s own life and will immerse her more directly in her husband’s policies. — New York Times

Viewpoints: Slashing pensions at the ballot is foolhardy
Ron Cottingham, president of the Peace Officers Research Association of California, takes on a plan to cut public worker pensions that its supporters are trying to place on the ballot. — Sacramento Bee

Privatization of Higher Ed & the MOOC movement
Tressie McMillan Cottom speaks Nov. 14, Noon at the San Jose State Library. She writes widely in *Inside Higher Ed*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and in *Huffington Post* about private higher education, racial inequality in higher education, and the changes being advanced by MOOCs and online initiatives. — [CFA San Jose Chapter](#)

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