

From the California Faculty Association  
[webmaster@calfac.org](mailto:webmaster@calfac.org) or [www.calfac.org](http://www.calfac.org)

## **CFA HEADLINES**

**January 29, 2013 · Weekly news digest from CFA**

- Kickoff meeting to launch CFA's spring activities
- Gov highlights higher ed in State of the State speech
- UC President Yudof to step down
- Links of the week

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### **· Kickoff meeting to launch CFA's spring activities**

CFA members from across the state will gather in Los Angeles this weekend to set a course for the spring term.

The event will update activists about the state and CSU budgets and our changing landscape that includes a new chancellor, new Trustees, and gubernatorial enthusiasm for online education. The meeting will also address ongoing issues like campus restructuring and the fight for equity year 2. The kickoff will include workshops designed to prepare chapters for the work of the new term.

Friday's events will be followed by working meetings of CFA's Presidents' Council, Council for Affirmative Action (CAA) and Lecturers' Council.

### **· Gov highlights higher ed in State of the State speech**

Education – both at the k-12 and higher ed level – was a key theme of Gov. Jerry Brown's state-of-the-state speech last week.

An upbeat Brown noted that California had "confounded its critics" by erasing a decades-old deficit, and praised lawmakers and voters for the state's economic and budgetary turnaround — even as he offered tough talk about "living within our means" as a key to the future.

[Read the full text of the Governor's speech.](#)

In regards to higher education, the governor was frank about the budgetary challenges facing the CSU and UC, but drew a line in the sand against further tuition hikes, saying:

*"With respect to higher education, cost pressures are relentless and many students cannot get the classes they need. A half million fewer students this year enrolled in the community colleges than in 2008. Graduation in four years is the exception and transition from one segment to the other is difficult. The University of California, the Cal*

*State system and the community colleges are all working on this. The key here is thoughtful change, working with the faculty and the college presidents. But tuition increases are not the answer. I will not let the students become the default financiers of our colleges and universities.”*

Further, the Governor was elegant in his assessment of those who would use metrics-driven measures to determine educational success, saying:

*“The laws that are in fashion demand tightly constrained curricula and reams of accountability data. All the better if it requires quiz-bits of information, regurgitated at regular intervals and stored in vast computers. Performance metrics, of course, are invoked like talismans. Distant authorities crack the whip, demanding quantitative measures and a stark, single number to encapsulate the precise achievement level of every child.*

*“We seem to think that education is a thing—like a vaccine—that can be designed from afar and simply injected into our children. But as the Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, said, ‘Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire.’”*

## **· UC President Yudof to step down**

Citing health concerns, UC President Mark Yudof announced last week that he will step down, effective August 31.

Yudof has been in the post for five years and plans to return to the classroom, teaching law at UC Berkeley.

Yudof will be the third head of a California higher-education system to step down in the last year. Jack Scott was replaced by Brice Harris as chancellor of California Community Colleges in September, and Charles Reed was succeeded by Tim White as chancellor of the California State University system in December.

The retirement of three system heads within a 12 month period is unprecedented.

## **· Links of the week**

### **Sign the petition to stop the arbitrary firing of 100 faculty at Bowling Green**

Supporters of Bowling Green State University call on the administration to disavow its intent to cut the number of faculty and increase class sizes. [Sign the petition.](#)

### **Chico State librarian remembered as staunch faculty supporter**

Richard Soares, a librarian, Chico State alumnus and faculty rights activist, passed away Jan. 4 after battling cancer for two years. He was 58 years old. – [The Orion](#)

## **Revolution Hits the Universities**

Nothing has more potential to lift more people out of poverty — by providing them an affordable education to get a job or improve in the job they have. Nothing has more potential to unlock a billion more brains to solve the world’s biggest problems. And nothing has more potential to enable us to reimagine higher education than the massive open online course, or MOOC. – [Column by Thomas L. Friedman, The New York Times](#)

**UC Berkeley chancellor to head initiative for public universities**

After retiring in June, Robert J. Birgeneau will head up a national effort to study and help public universities in an era of reduced tax support, new technology and changing student demographics. – [LA Times](#)

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