

From the California Faculty Association
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CFA HEADLINES

February 5, 2013 · Weekly news digest from CFA

- Faculty leaders take up new CSU landscape
- CFA spring Kickoff workshops address big issues
- CFA Board resolves to support immigration reform
- Get your printed copy of the faculty contract
- National call for faculty ideas on funding Higher Ed

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• CFA faculty leaders take up new CSU landscape

Faculty leaders from CFA chapters on the 23 California State University campuses gathered in Los Angeles last weekend to examine the new landscape of the CSU.



The CFA Spring Kickoff considered the impact of winning Prop. 30 on the state's budget and on the CSU. Instead of facing a \$250 million cut, the governor has [proposed an increase](#) for the system. That opens new possibilities for the CSU, its students and employees including the faculty.

The CFA Lecturers Council was among the leadership groups at the kickoff

In addition to the improved budget outlook, the arrival of Chancellor Timothy White, the appointment of five new Trustees to the Board and intensified interest in the CSU on the part of the governor all may affect the landscape in our university system.

• CFA workshops address big issues

Workshops at the CFA gathering and the subsequent CFA Board of Directors meeting last weekend took up three developments in the public university:

ONLINE EDUCATION

Participants at the CFA Kickoff discussed some implications of online education and the two main new projects underway in the CSU – Cal State Online that is system-wide and the Udacity Project at San Jose State.

RESTRUCTURING

Another workshop took up the challenges associated with restructuring academic programs on some campuses. Faculty members from four campuses—Dominguez Hills and Pomona in Southern California and East Bay and Sacramento in the north—reported on their experiences with management’s push to collapse programs, alter curriculum and reduce the requirements needed to get a degree.

The goals and likely outcome of restructuring can be all over the map, from changing general education requirements to eliminating programs and merging colleges.

CFA Associate Vice President Dave Bradfield (CFA Chapter President at Dominguez Hills) noted change can be a good thing if it is done thoughtfully with the reality of the students in mind. He also reminded faculty that management must always “meet and confer” with the union about the impact of these changes on the faculty.

EQUITY YEAR 2

A third workshop explored the status of funding what is known in the faculty collective bargaining agreement as [“Equity Year 2.”](#)

The Equity Pay clause in the contract is meant to solve inequities in the faculty salary structure. Implementation of the new contract in regard to Equity Year 2 must be carried out on a campus-by-campus basis.

• CFA Board resolves to support immigration reform

At its meeting last Friday, the CFA Board of Directors adopted a resolution submitted by CFA’s Council for Affirmative Action to [“Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform.”](#)



Among other things, the resolution notes that this is important to the CSU community. We have faculty colleagues who must deal with immigration in regard to their jobs and families. Also, many CSU students need “a path to citizenship” that will allow them to put their college degrees to work for themselves and for California.

• Get your copy of the new contract

The new CSU faculty collective bargaining agreement is now available in paperback. Request your copy from [your campus chapter office](#).

[The contract](#) is also available on the CFA web site as a .pdf download and in a searchable online format.

• National call for faculty ideas on funding Higher Ed

The Campaign for the Future of Higher Education has called for a nationwide faculty discussion of new ideas to solve the funding crisis in America's public higher education systems.



The authors of three working papers will present their ideas and answer questions on a telephone briefing next Tuesday for the news media, including campus newspapers and social network bloggers. (Media and bloggers can [request call-in info.](#))

The papers suggest that we could: (1) make big strides towards free public higher education by reallocating current governmental expenditures for higher education and by eliminating regressive tax breaks, (2) vastly improve funding for higher education through a miniscule tax on financial transactions, and/or (3) "reset" higher education funding to more adequate past levels by making very small adjustments in the median income tax return.

The working papers will be posted to the CFHE web site this week for advance comments. Please watch for them at <http://www.futureofhighered.org>

CFHE asks faculty members nationwide to post comments on the papers and to circulate the links and discussion using email, Facebook, Twitter and other social media to encourage more participation by faculty.

LINKS OF THE WEEK

Pennsylvania faculty union's negotiations committee approves tentative agreement

Monday evening the negotiations committee of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (APSCUF) unanimously approved a tentative contract agreement with the State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). — [APSCUF Web Blog](#)

MOOC Mess

Maybe it was inevitable that one of the new massive open online courses would crash. After all, MOOCs are being launched with considerable speed, not to mention hype. But MOOC advocates might have preferred the collapse of a course other than the one that was suspended this weekend, one week into

instruction: "Fundamentals of Online Education: Planning and Application." — [Inside Higher Ed](#)

UC online courses fail to lure outsiders

The University of California is spending millions to market an ambitious array of online classes created to "knock people's socks off" and attract tuition from students around the world. But since classes began a year ago, enrollment outside of UC is not what you'd call robust. One person took a class. —[San Francisco Chronicle](#)