

From the California Faculty Association
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CFA HEADLINES

February 26, 2013 · Weekly news digest from CFA

- U. of Phoenix faces possible loss of accreditation
- Little Hoover Commission examines higher ed
- Attend AAUP California meeting
- Rubio resignation leaves Dems shy of two-thirds in state senate
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· U. of Phoenix faces possible loss of accreditation

The University of Phoenix, the largest for-profit university in the United States, is expecting to be put on probation by its accrediting agency.

Inside Higher Ed reported Monday that:

“The University of Phoenix’s accreditation woes are more serious than the for-profit giant had been told to expect, with a site team from its regional accreditor recommending last week that the university be placed on probation because of concerns about a lack of autonomy from its holding company, the Apollo Group.”

[Read the article.](#)

According to the Washington Post, the university has an overall graduation rate — meaning first-time undergraduates who get a degree in six years — of about 16 percent, though the graduation rate for online programs is a quarter of that.

· Little Hoover Commission examines higher ed

The Little Hoover Commission – California’s bipartisan panel that reviews state government programs and suggests ways to improve them – will examine the state of higher education institutions at a meeting today in Long Beach.

Among the items that will be discussed are: Student aid, online education and the role of faculty.

[View the agenda.](#)

Panelists at the event include Diana Guerin, Chair of the statewide academic senate, Bob Samuels, President of the UC Council of the American Federation of Teachers, and Sebastian Thrun of Udacity.

The 13-member commission, created in 1962, is formally known as the Milton Marks “Little Hoover” Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy. The governor appoints five members, the Legislature appoints four, and there are two senators and two Assembly members on the commission.

· **Attend AAUP California meeting**

CSU faculty members are invited to attend the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) California annual meeting next month in San Diego.

The event will take place Saturday, March 9, at the University of California San Diego’s Cross-Cultural Center (in the Price Center).

The theme of the event is “The Financial Crisis in California and Its Impact on Higher Education” and workshops offered include:

- Building and Maintaining Participatory Governance
- Organizing Faculty to take the Offensive on the Crisis in Higher Education
- Preserving and Enhancing Academic Freedom
- The University of Oregon Story: Faculty Unionize and Fight for First Contract

For more details contact: westcoast@aaup.org

· **Rubio resignation leaves Dems shy of two-thirds in state senate**

State Sen. Michael Rubio (D–Shafter) abruptly announced Friday that he is resigning, creating a third vacancy in the 40-person Senate.

Rubio's resignation temporarily drops Democrats to 26 seats in the 40-member Senate - one shy of a supermajority. The Democratic-leaning districts of Gloria Negrete McLeod and Juan Vargas – who were both elected to congress earlier this year – are currently vacant.

A special election will take place March 12 to fill the seats. CFA has endorsed Norma Torres in the Senate District 32 election (Inland empire area) and Ben Hueso in the Senate District 40 race (Inland San Diego and Imperial County area).

[View CFA's endorsements for the March 12 special election.](#)

Since both Torres and Hueso are sitting Assemblymembers, the outcome of these races could create a domino effect leading to vacancies and special elections in the 80-member Assembly.

· Links of the week

Take the Survey; CTA looking for feedback for strategic long-term planning

The California Teachers Association – of which CFA is an affiliate – is looking for feedback on the long-term direction of the organization. Take the survey today to add the voice of higher education to the discussion. – CTA.org

John Travis, CFA President, Bargaining Team Chair, dies at 68

A wicked prankster, a brilliant strategist, a tireless advocate for the integrity of the California State University system: Those are just a few of the ways family and friends remembered Humboldt State University political science professor John Travis. – [Eureka Times-Standard](http://EurekaTimes-Standard)

ND public college students express "no confidence" in university system chancellor, support buyout

North Dakota public university students have no confidence in state University System Chancellor Hamid Shirvani – formerly of CSU Stanislaus – and would like to see the state Board of Higher Education remove him from his post. – Fargo-Moorhead Forum

Campaign discusses funding for higher education

The Campaign for the Future of Higher Education discusses funding options for the future of public universities. – Sonoma State Star

Read the three papers from CFHE at: www.futureofhighered.org

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