

From the California Faculty Association
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CFA HEADLINES

March 5, 2013 · Weekly news digest from CFA

- California college students hold “March in March”
- North Dakota dismisses controversial former Stanislaus president
- CFA endorses Torres, Hueso in March 12 special election
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· California college students hold “March in March”

Several thousand college students from all three segments of higher education in California – UC, CSU and community colleges – marched from Raley Field to the State Capitol Monday to urge increased higher ed funding and a roll back of student fee hikes.

The annual event is known as "March in March for Higher Education."

[View a roundup of photos and social media posts documenting the event.](#)

The march culminated with a noontime rally at the State Capitol where representatives from the UC, CSU and community college campuses voiced their demands to lawmakers.

Speakers voiced concern over long-term tuition increases, decreasing Pell Grants and newly proposed unit caps - despite the recent passage of Proposition 30, which prevented midyear tuition hikes,

One piece of legislation that drew vocal support Monday is an oil-severance tax authored by state Sen. Noreen Evans (D-Santa Rosa), which students hailed as a possible long-term solution to higher ed's financial woes. Senate Bill 241 would place a 9.9 percent oil-severance tax that would raise nearly \$2 billion for public higher education.

· North Dakota dismisses controversial former Stanislaus president

Former CSU Stanislaus campus President Hamid Shirvani has been ousted from his post as chancellor of a North Dakota public university.

North Dakota's state Senate endorsed a proposal last week to buy out the last two years of Shirvani's three-year contract.

“We can’t afford to see the system torn down,” North Dakota state Senator Karen Krebsbach said, referring to Shirvani’s leadership style. “There is fear, intimidation, things that should not be happening in the state of North Dakota.”

The vote comes less than a week after the North Dakota Student Association expressed a vote of "no confidence" in his leadership.

This news comes as little surprise to CFA members, as Shirvani had a checkered history of disputes with faculty & students at Stanislaus:

- In November 2009, faculty members at Stanislaus voted overwhelmingly to express no confidence in Shirvani’s performance and leadership, with 91% of the 264 ballots cast expressing no confidence in him.
- He infamously penned an editorial in the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) arguing that education—like ice cream—should be only for those who “deserve” it in these challenging economic times.
- During the 2008/09 academic year Shirvani laid off nearly half the lecturers on campus (44% by both headcount and full-time equivalency).
- Shirvani was catapulted into the national spotlight in Spring 2010, when the Stanislaus State Foundation announced former vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin would speak at a private benefit marking CSU Stanislaus’ 50th anniversary.

The foundation negotiated a speaking contract with Palin but refused to disclose her compensation. Foundation leaders, which included Shirvani, claimed they had no documents pertaining to her June visit. After emails written by administrators regarding the visit were uncovered, they claimed the foundation was exempt from California’s public records law despite being staffed by taxpayer-funded employees.

• **CFA endorses Torres, Hueso in March 12 special election**

CFA has endorsed Norma Torres (Senate District 32, Inland Empire area) and Ben Hueso (Senate District 40, inland San Diego and Imperial County area) for the upcoming special elections set to take place March 12.

The elections are needed in these Democratic-leaning districts since Gloria Negrete McLeod and Juan Vargas vacated their seats after being elected to Congress earlier this year.

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

Since both Torres are 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

Sequestration Presents Uncertain Outlook for Students, Researchers, and Job-Seekers

As the midnight-Thursday deadline came and went, steep federal spending cuts were set in motion, leaving college students, administrators, and researchers bracing for the effects of impending reductions in financial-aid, research, and job-training programs. Adding to the anxiety is the fact that no one is certain exactly how or when those effects will be seen. – [Chronicle of Higher Ed](#)

Chancellor Timothy P. White dancing to the “Harlem Shake” at CSU East Bay

[Watch the Video](#)

Student loan delinquency rate is increasing

Almost a third of the people who borrowed for education were delinquent at the end of 2012, up from a quarter in 2008 and 20% in 2004. – [Los Angeles Times](#)

Hughes: Don't let Shirvani take undue credit

The public deserves accurate information about the buildings at California State University, Stanislaus, including the Science Building which was in question. In fall 2005, shortly after his arrival, I received several calls indicating that Hamid Shirvani was promulgating false information and alleging he was responsible for funding and construction of the Science Building. – [Modesto Bee](#)

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