

From the California Faculty Association
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CFA HEADLINES

March 26, 2013 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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· **CFA Lobby Days focus on state budget, online higher ed bills**

Faculty members from all over the CSU will gather April 2-3 for CFA's annual Lobby Days at the State Capitol in Sacramento.

This year, CFA members will meet with legislators to support the Governor's proposed increase in funding for the CSU and to discuss the problems associated with some of his budget policy proposals including changes to CSU employee health care. We will also discuss our on-the-ground experiences with the pros and cons of online education.

"More than ever before, our voices and experiences must be considered in the budget and legislative process, as we fight for students, faculty, and public higher education," said Peter Kreysa, Chair of CFA's Political Action/Legislative Committee.

· **Read CFA statement on online higher ed bills**

Last week, CFA released a [statement](#) regarding the wave of online higher education bills that are coming out of the state legislature.

The statement reads in part:

"For so many Californians, our public colleges and universities are still the largest and most consistent providers of quality courses (in a variety of formats), rich opportunities for academic success, and relatively affordable prices. We believe that providing Californians with meaningful access to higher education requires that we provide adequate public investment in our university system.

"Simply increasing online offerings (on the questionable assumption that it is cheaper) or handing off education to private vendors will not serve California well in the long run.

“Legislators’ well-intentioned efforts to increase access for students ignore a proven solution that we know will increase access: investing resources into more class sections. Legislation that promotes too-good-to-be-true alternatives to reinvesting in our public colleges and universities will not solve the state’s needs for an educated citizenry.”

[Read the full statement here.](#)

· **CFA bill on ex-officio Trustee passes committee**

A CFA-sponsored bill to give ex-officio members of the CSU Board of Trustees a greater voice was approved by the Assembly Higher Education Committee last week.

Assembly Bill 46 passed the committee by a final vote of 9 to 3 with both Democrats and Republicans voting in favor.

The bill—which is authored by Assemblymember Richard Pan (D-Sacramento) and sponsored by CFA—would allow ex-officio members of the Board of Trustees to send a designee to Trustee meetings. The designee would be allowed to vote.

The ex-officio members of the Board of Trustees include the Governor, Lt. Governor, Assembly Speaker and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Currently, if the ex-officio members are absent, they have no voice or vote at the meeting. CalPERS and CalSTRS use this practice and both entities manage significantly more money than the CSU Trustees.

[Read the text of AB 46 and follow its progress through the state legislature.](#)

· **Montaño elected President of National Council for Higher Ed**

CFA is proud to announce that our own Theresa Montaño—an associate professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies at Cal State Northridge and a member of the CFA Board of Directors—was elected President of the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) at an NEA Conference held in Portland this past weekend.

NCHE is an independent association of higher education organizations affiliated with, and higher education employee members of, the National Education Association.

Congratulations, Theresa!

· **Pacific Media Workers Guild rallies against Hearst attack on healthcare**

The fight for fair wages and affordable health care premiums extends even to unionized members of the fourth estate.

On Monday, employees of the San Francisco Chronicle (who are represented by Pacific Media Workers Guild) staged a social media protest against proposed changes to their healthcare coverage.

Hearst Corp. wants Chronicle workers to ditch the Guild-provided health care and sign onto a traditional company healthcare plan provided by Hearst. The switch would mean Chronicle workers would lose all healthcare bargaining rights and most employees would see a cost increase—some premiums going up from around \$700 to as much as \$3,000 a year, according to the Guild.

On Monday, dozens of Chronicle staffers tweeted: "Wealthy @HearstCorp wants to gut healthcare plan at @SFChronicle @SFGate. It's a huge paycut!" along with the hashtag "#makesussick"

Chronicle staffers in support of the campaign also changed all of their social media avatars into a red square, and are asking that supporters do the same.

More information on this cause is available via the Pacific Media Workers Guild website, [here](#) and [here](#).

· **Links of the week**

It's MOOAs, Not MOOCs, that will transform higher education

"...So if we could find a way to put administration online, to create Massive Online Open Administrations or MOOAs, we could really cut some fat and reap some serious rewards."

– [Chronicle of Higher Ed](#)

California needs to be careful when moving toward online classes

California's budget crisis has had many terrible consequences, but one of the most troubling has been the erosion of access to college courses. This past fall, for example, about 400,000 community college students—nearly a quarter of the student body—were on a waiting list to get into a class. – [Oakland Tribune](#)

Report: Hundreds of thousands have been shut out in California

California's community colleges—the nation's largest public higher education system—have lost so many teachers and classes that students are being driven away. – [San Jose Mercury News](#)

Harvard asks graduates to donate time to free online Humanities class

Alumni of elite colleges are accustomed to getting requests for money from their alma mater, but the appeal that Harvard sent to thousands of graduates on Monday was something new: a plea to donate their time and intellects to the rapidly expanding field of online education. – [New York Times](#)

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