

From the California Faculty Association
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CFA HEADLINES

April 23, 2013 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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· **Ex-officio Trustee bill clears committee**

A CFA-sponsored bill to allow the state's top elected officials to send designees in their place to California State University Board of Trustees meetings passed through the state Assembly last week by a vote of 52-24.

If it passes the Senate and is signed by the governor, AB 46, authored by Assemblymember Richard Pan, would expand participation in the state university's decision-making board. The ex-officio Trustees who would gain the authority to send designees include the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the Assembly and State Superintendent of Public Education.

The bill would also give the non-voting student Trustee the authority to vote when the voting student Trustee is absent.

The vote demonstrated bi-partisan support for the change.

"We have long believed that this is a commonsense practice that would make sure critical stakeholders in our public university are at the decision-making table," said Lillian Taiz, President of the California Faculty Association.

Next, the bill moves to the Senate Education Committee.

· **Flurry of online higher ed bills goes before legislature this week**

This week is the unofficial "online higher ed" week at the state Capitol as several bills related to online education in California's public colleges and universities will be heard by lawmakers over the coming days.

On Tuesday the Assembly Higher Education Committee held a hearing at which it examined a handful of bills



having to do with online learning, including: [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 386](#), [AB 387](#), and [AB 895](#).

AB 895 – which was approved by the committee – is sponsored by CFA and would establish the California Postsecondary Online Education Task Force. This task force would be composed of stakeholders from the three public segments of higher education, including faculty, staff, administrators and students.

The task force would evaluate the status of postsecondary online education in California, identify best practices for implementing online education programs, examine the impact of online education on students and faculty, and establish guidelines to ensure quality online education.

Wednesday will be the Senate's turn as the Senate Education Committee will take up controversial Senate Bill 520.

A [strong letter](#) of opposition was sent April 18 to the bill's author, Senate pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, by a coalition including CTA, the California Faculty Association, the California Federation of Teachers, the California School Employees Association, the Community College Association and the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges.

The coalition points out that this flawed bill creates more problems than it solves as targeting lower-division courses for online delivery puts at-risk students at even greater risk.

The California Legislative Analyst's Office has found that community college students, for example, have lower course completion rates when they take them online.

SB 520 will lead to the **contracting out of instruction to private companies** by shifting public dollars needed to support faculty and staff providing instruction and mentoring – face-to-face interaction, hybrid classes, blended learning, computer labs for students without high speed Internet at home, and academic advising – to new administrative costs and private corporations that are seeking a revenue model for their online products.

· **CFA Assembly to take on membership, online ed**

Faculty delegates from all 23 CSU campuses will meet in in the Bay Area this weekend for the 78th CFA Delegates' Assembly.

This edition of the biannual event will focus on how the union relates to recent developments in online education, as well as how to build CFA membership in advance of contract negotiations in 2014.

Planned workshop sessions include a discussion of the research on online learning and its implications for higher ed, messaging the online phenomenon and building strength by building membership.

The Assembly will also feature a very special workshop from the Council for Affirmative Action entitled "A Journey into Change," which takes on unconscious bias and its impact in the CSU.

· **May 2nd symposium honors past-CFA leader Jeff Lustig**

Faculty colleagues at the Sacramento State Department of Government and the Center for California Studies are hosting a symposium honoring Jeff Lustig, the late Sacramento State professor and CFA activist.

The event will be May 2, 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the Sacramento State Alumni Center.

Short talks by distinguished speakers will address the themes of Jeff's work, focusing on California political ideas, history and culture. The talks will be followed by audience discussion and a reception with drinks and appetizers. The event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available in the U-shaped lot at the Alumni Center.

Speakers at the event include:

- William A. Dorman, Professor of Government, Emeritus, Sacramento State
- Pia Lopez, Associate Editor, Sacramento Bee
- Steve Lustig, Associate Vice Chancellor Emeritus, UC Berkeley, and Jeff Lustig's brother
- Charles Postel, Professor of History, San Francisco State
- John Syer, Professor of Government, Emeritus, Sacramento State
- Richard Walker, Professor of Geography, Emeritus, UC Berkeley

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· **Sal Castro, teacher who led '68 Chicano student walkouts, remembered**

Sal Castro, a Los Angeles social studies teacher and Chicano rights activist, died last week at the age 79.

Castro played a leading role in 1960s Chicano student walkouts.

[Read the obituary from the Los Angeles Times.](#)

The son of Mexican immigrants, Castro was born in Los Angeles but spent some of his early childhood in Mexico. He couldn't speak English when he returned to Los Angeles in the second grade and was made to sit in the corner.

Castro was a social studies teacher at Lincoln High School near downtown in March 1968 when he supported and joined walkouts by hundreds of Mexican-American students.



These "blowouts" protested run-down and overcrowded East Los Angeles schools, poor teachers and discrimination. Castro earlier worked with students and graduates to present the school board with a list of demands aiming to improve the schools.

CFA activist Rita Ledesma (Child & Family Studies, Los Angeles), who participated in the "blowouts" as a student at Roosevelt High, penned a touching remembrance of Castro that can be [viewed on the CFA website.](#)

· Links of the week

Attend a May Day immigration event near you – [Download the flyer](#)

Former chancellor Reed says universities must evolve

Former university system Chancellor Charles B. Reed said the university of the future will be completely different - with a new way of delivering information, a new type of student and new requirements for teachers in world where information is readily accessible, but must be translated into learning. – [Tampa Bay Times](#)

Online voter registration yields big impact

"When California rolled out online voter registration in September, political experts doubted those new registrants would vote in significant numbers. But they voted like crazy – 83 percent of the 817,000 online registrants voted, far better than the overall turnout of 73 percent. They accounted for 5 percent of all ballots cast." – [Orange County Register](#)

Campus' state of mental health examined more closely by faculty

While the Counseling and Psychological Services at Sacramento State is considered a model collegiate mental health program within the California State University system, some union representatives voiced frustration about the program and a recent employment switch. – [The State Hornet](#)

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