

From the California Faculty Association
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CFA HEADLINES

May 7, 2013 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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- San José State faculty push back against edX
- Spring CFA magazine evaluates “online ed at the fork in the road”
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· Governor readies for May Revise

Governor Jerry Brown is expected to unveil his revised budget proposal next week and the contents of that plan will have a major impact on CSU faculty.

The amended budget plan – which is known at the State Capitol as the “May Revise” – will include an update on proposed funding levels for the CSU and also provide a window into what sorts of policy changes the governor would like to implement for higher education.

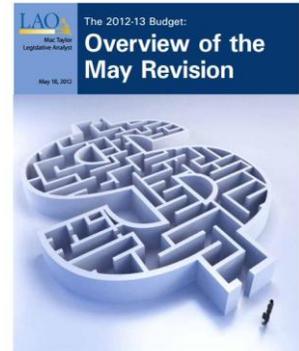
In January Gov. Brown proposed [a \\$125.1 million increase in CSU funding](#).

In April, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 on Education Finance rejected two proposals included in the governor’s January budget plan. One proposal would have changed the law concerning CSU employer contributions for faculty health insurance and another would have imposed a cap on the number of state-subsidized classes students can take.

While the committee’s rejection of these proposals is welcome, the governor could reinsert both into his revised budget next week.

Brown has also [stated](#) publicly that he intends to include some sort of “metrics” in the budget plan to measure the effectiveness of the CSU and UC in graduating students in four years.

The May Revise should be released May 14.



· San José State faculty push back against edX

Faculty members in the philosophy department at San José State University last week issued what [the New York Times called a “blistering statement”](#) about why they will not use materials from an online course called [Justice](#), taught by Michael Sandel of Harvard.

In a letter [published by the Chronicle of Higher Ed](#), the philosophy faculty stated they do not want to enable what they see as a push to "replace professors, dismantle departments, and provide a diminished education for students in public universities."



The letter echoed concerns of many university faculties across the nation about MOOCs—massive open online classes. It emphasized the importance of individual interaction with students, and the fear that the courses would widen the gap between the education that elite universities can offer and what is available to students at most other institutions.

“The move to MOOCs comes at great peril to our university,” the letter said. “We regard such courses as a serious compromise of quality of education and, ironically for a social justice course, a case of social injustice.”

· Spring CFA magazine evaluates “online ed at the fork in the road”

The Spring 2013 issue of California Faculty magazine is now available to view online.

This issue features an in-depth examination of the [online higher ed](#) phenomenon, an update on the [state budget](#), a tribute to former CFA President [John Travis](#) and a special article from the Council for Affirmative Action entitled [A Journey into Change](#).

[Read the magazine.](#)

Hard copies of the magazine will be placed in faculty mail boxes over the coming weeks. If you do not receive your copy, please contact your [campus CFA chapter office](#).

· View the new Lecturers’ and Coaches’ Handbooks online

New editions of CFA’s Lecturers’ and Coaches’ Handbooks are now available to view and download online.

This 2012-2014 edition of the Lecturers’ Handbook comes via the efforts of the CFA Lecturers’ Council. It gives an overview of the rights of Lecturer faculty members, plus specific information on how to exercise and defend those rights.

[View and download the Lecturers’ Handbook.](#)

The new Coaches' Handbook was created to help coaches in the CSU stay informed of their rights and know what to do if an athletic director or other administrator ignores those rights or fails to enforce the contract.

[Download the Coaches' Handbook.](#)

Hard copies of both handbooks have been shipped to each campus and are being distributed as you read this. If you have not received your copy, please contact your [campus CFA chapter office](#).

· **New book explores “equality for contingent faculty”**

A forthcoming anthology from the Vanderbilt University Press examines the state of contingent faculty and offers ideas – some of which are based on CFA's past success – on how faculty can fight back.

The lead article in the book is "Organizing for Equality Within the Two-Tier System: The Experience of the California Faculty Association," and is written by longtime CFA stalwarts Elizabeth Hoffman and John Hess.

That entry focuses on CFA's successful Unite to Win organizing strategy.

The anthology – which is entitled *Equality for Contingent Faculty* – brings together eleven activists from the United States and Canada to describe the problem, share case histories, and offer concrete solutions. The book begins with three accounts of successful organizing efforts within the two-track system.

The second part describes how the two-track system divides the faculty into haves and have-nots and leaves the majority without the benefit of academic freedom or the support of their institutions. The third part offers roadmaps for overcoming the deficiencies of the two-track system and providing equality for all professors, regardless of status or rank.

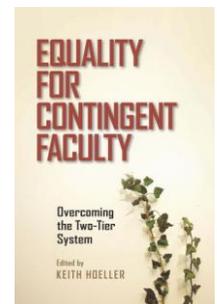
[Read reviews and learn more on Amazon.](#)

· **Student video competition chronicles immigrants**

CSU students – and young people in general – are invited to participate in the Cortos y Fuertes (Short and Strong), a film competition for young people about immigrants and their lives. CFA urges faculty and others to share this opportunity with their students.

[Learn more here.](#)

Cortos y Fuertes is a contest sponsored by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and UNITE HERE, the union of hotel and food service workers. The mission is to encourage young people across the country to share stories of immigrants in their lives. America was built on the



hard work and ambition of immigrants, and Cortos y Fuertes wants you to capture that ambition on video by telling your story.

Participants are tasked with creating videos that tell the story of their family, dreams and pride using handheld video cameras, smart phones, and whatever other equipment and software they own or have permission to use. The sponsors encourage participants to investigate issues in their communities, within the boundaries of the law.

· **CTA celebrates 150 year anniversary**

The California Teachers Association (CTA) – of which CFA is an affiliate – kicked off national Teacher Appreciation Week Monday with a news conference in the Bay Area to honor CTA's 150 years of advocating for all California students, teachers and public schools.

CTA unveiled a statewide [television, radio, print and web ad](#) campaign about CTA's historic achievements and commitment to students that reach back to the Civil War era.

Look for Chico faculty member and CFA statewide Treasurer Susan Green in the video linked above.

[Read more about the CTA milestone.](#)

· **Links of the week**

CSU chief concerned about Brown's higher ed metrics plan

California State University Chancellor Timothy White expressed concern Wednesday that the governor wants to tie state funding to increasing the number of freshmen who graduate in four years and to other targets that could undermine the mission of the nation's largest university system. – [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

How will MOOCs Affect Fair Use and Copyright Compliance?

As more institutions consider offering Massive Open Online Courses (or MOOCs), we wanted to investigate what impact these open-enrollment online courses might have on copyright compliance issues for faculty in higher education. To learn more, we turned to copyright and fair use policy experts Steven McDonald, general counsel for the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), and Kevin Smith, director of scholarly communications for Duke University's Perkins Library. – [Academic Impressions](#)

EDITORIAL: Secrecy lobby blocking access to public information in California

The closed-door process that is being used to select the next Fresno State president is an example of a growing secrecy that is being used by public officials to make decisions without involving the citizens who pay the bills. Across California, a secrecy lobby of government leaders is working to block public access to decisions, documents and details of the inner workings of government. – [Fresno Bee](#)

Duke U.'s Undergraduate Faculty Derails Plan for Online Courses for Credit

The faculty of Duke University's undergraduate college drew a line in the sand last week on online education: Massive online experiments are fine, but there will be no credit-bearing online courses at Duke in the near future. – [Chronicle of Higher Ed](#)

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