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CFA HEADLINES  
May 14, 2013 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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· May revise maintains $125M increase for the CSU

This morning, Gov. Jerry Brown introduced his revised budget proposal for the 2013/14 fiscal year.

The “May Revise” – as it is known at the Capitol – maintains the $125.1 million increase in CSU funding proposed by the Governor in January.

View the proposal in its entirety at: http://www.ebudget.ca.gov.

In a noteworthy victory for students, the Governor withdrew a proposal that would have set a cap on the number of state-subsidized units a student could take towards completion of most degrees and charged students out-of-state rates for all units taken beyond that cap.

Meanwhile, the May Revise is silent on the January budget proposal regarding faculty health insurance. As of publication time, it is unclear whether this means the healthcare proposal remains on the table or not.

Whatever the case, both the governor and legislature have the right to reinsert the healthcare language (or other policy changes) later in the budget process if they choose.

Also notable in the revised budget is an opaque reference to performance metrics:

"This plan expects CSU to achieve the following priorities: improve graduation rates; increase the number of transfer students from Community Colleges; increase the number of degrees completed, particularly by low-income students; reduce the cost per degree. The Administration will continue to work with the Legislature, the segments and other stakeholders to strengthen the accountability plan."
CSU Chancellor Timothy White and others in the CSU have raised serious concerns about these proposed metrics.

CFA will work with lawmakers over the coming days and weeks to ensure that the best interests of faculty are represented in the budget process. As the budget is clarified over the coming days, CFA will send out additional updates.

· Fifth gathering of the Campaign for the Future of Higher Ed set for this weekend

The fifth national gathering of the Campaign for the Future of Higher Education (CFHE) will take place this weekend in Columbus, Ohio.

At the meeting—which will be co-hosted by the Ohio Conference AAUP, Ohio Federation of Teachers and Ohio Education Association—attendees will discuss ways to:

- Foster community engagement and support for public higher education
- Provide alternatives to the “new normal” of inadequate funding for higher education
- Develop effective strategies to improve funding for higher education
- Identify online education principles that provide meaningful access to quality higher education for our students

CFHE is a national movement undertaken to ensure that the voices of faculty, students, and communities are part of the conversation about the changes to and policy about higher education.

More about the CFHE can be found at: www.futureofhighered.org/

· Sac, Fresno Bee weigh in on secretive presidential selection process

The controversy surrounding the selection of a new president at Fresno State has reopened the debate about the CSU’s policy of vetting potential presidents behind closed doors.

In 2011, academic senates across the CSU condemned management’s decision to eliminate the long-held tradition of “campus visits” for presidential candidates. That decision effectively ended the only avenue faculty, staff, and students have had to interact with candidates before they are hired.
With the story again in the news, the editorial boards of both the Sacramento and Fresno Bee published editorials this week condemning the practice of hiding potential candidates from public view.

The Fresno Bee wrote:

“As officials of the California State University system have said of the Fresno State search process, the public is just going to have to trust them in selecting the next president of Fresno State. We believe the CSU administration and trustees should be willing to trust the public by revealing the finalists for the Fresno State presidency.”

The Sacramento Bee wrote:

“Doesn’t the CSU board want to see how finalists engage with the campus and public? Don’t finalists want to see if the campus is a good fit for them?

“Chancellor White and the CSU board should return the campus visit to the presidential selection process.”

· 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.

· Links of the week

CSU San Marcos students stage sit-in; join call for racial sensitivity after sorority photo scandal

Students staged a sit in outside the Chancellor’s Office at California State University San Marcos Thursday afternoon. The students are hoping to open the lines of communication after
pictures surfaced of Alpha Chi Omega sorority members posing as Latina gang members advertising their "chola party." – ABC 10 News

Joseph E. Stiglitz: Student Debt and the Crushing of the American Dream
A certain drama has become familiar in the United States (and some other advanced industrialized countries): Bankers encourage people to borrow beyond their means, preying especially on those who are financially unsophisticated. They use their political influence to get favorable treatment of one form or another. Debts mount. Journalists record the human toll. Then comes bewilderment: How could we let this happen again? – New York Times

Cap and gouge: Graduation fees at Cal State campuses
After scrimping, borrowing and sacrificing for years to pay for college, graduating seniors are finally preparing to celebrate. But at many California public universities, you don't just pay to get in. You pay to get out. – Contra Costa Times

Union for UC patient-care workers authorizes strike for May 21, 22
The union representing nearly 13,000 University of California patient-care workers announced plans Friday to strike later this month, but UC officials said they would seek a restraining order to prevent any such action. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees 3299 issued a 10-day notice to the UC Office of the President and set the strike date for May 21 and 22. – Los Angeles Times

Public university presidents are prospering, annual compensation study finds
“...the median total compensation for the presidents of public research universities was $441,392, up 4.7 percent from the previous year’s $421,395. The median base salary, $373,800, was up 2 percent from $366,519 the previous year.” – New York Times

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