

From the California Faculty Association
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CFA HEADLINES

April 30, 2013 · Weekly news digest from CFA

- Spring Assembly moves union forward
- CFA bill to promote quality use of online higher ed clears committee
- Spring CFA magazine evaluates “online ed at the fork in the road”
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· **Spring Assembly moves union forward**

Faculty delegates from all 23 CSU campuses met in in the Bay Area last weekend for the 78th CFA Delegates’ Assembly.

Important discussions at the Assembly included a workshop presenting [research on online learning](#), another in which participants worked on talking publicly and effectively about the online phenomenon as well as a discussion of how to build this union’s strength by increasing membership.

The Assembly featured a well-received workshop from the Council for Affirmative Action entitled [“A Journey Into Change”](#) which takes on unconscious bias and its impact in the CSU. The council plans to take the workshop on the road soon, so that faculty and CSU leaders can experience it.

As this is an odd-year Assembly, it also featured the election of a new CFA Board of Directors. While most of those elected have already served CFA for many years, several positions were filled by first-timers who should be commended for stepping up to help the union.

Below is a listing of the newly (re)elected CFA Board, members listed in bold are new to their positions on the board.

OFFICERS

President, Lillian Taiz (Los Angeles)

Vice President, Kim Geron (East Bay)

Secretary, John Halcon (San Marcos)

Treasurer, Susan Green (Chico)

AVP, North, Jennifer Eagan (East Bay)

AVP, South, Charles Toombs (San Diego)

AVP Lecturers- North, Jonathan Karpf (San Jose)

AVP Lecturers- South, Leslie Bryan (San Bernardino)

AVP, Affirmative Action, Cecil Canton (Sacramento)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Contract Development/Bargaining Strategy, Andy Merrifield (Sonoma)

Counselors, Mary Cavagnaro (San Francisco)

Librarians, Romelia Salinas (Los Angeles)

Membership & Organizing, Leleua Loupe (Fullerton)

Political Acton/Legislation, Kevin Wehr (Sacramento)

Representation, David Bradfield (Dominguez Hills)

Retired Faculty, Mary Anwar (Long Beach)

LECTURER REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Davis (Monterey Bay)

Chris Cruz-Boone (Bakersfield)

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REPRESENTATIVES

Erma Jean Sims (Sonoma)

Angela McIntosh (San Diego)

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS REPRESENTATIVES

Kell Fujimoto (San Jose)

Marcia Marx (San Bernardino)

John Sarraille (Stanislaus)

Glen Throncroft (San Luis Obispo)

- CFA bill to promote quality online higher ed clears committee

A CFA-sponsored bill – which is authored by Assemblymember Anthony Rendon and seeks to evaluate the usage of online tools in public higher ed – was passed by the Assembly Higher Education Committee last week.

Assembly Bill (AB) 895 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.

“It is imperative that we deliver education based on sound practices and principles and follow a successful vetting process that has proven effective for our students,” said CFA President Lillian Taiz, a professor of history at Cal State Los Angeles.

“There is a lot of activity surrounding online education in our public universities. It is critical that we properly examine what is – and what is not – working on our campuses before we rush in to unproven and ill-advised methods,” added Taiz.

Since the elimination of the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), there has been mounting interest in postsecondary online education as a means of providing greater access to public higher education. In span of a decade (between 1999/00 and 2009/10), California’s community colleges (CCC) reported an average annual growth rate of 19 percent for students taking at least one distance-education course.

Unfortunately, the CSU Chancellor’s office does not collect this information from campuses, but the CSU offers over 1,300 online courses and offered 13,000 sections last year. As of 2010, the University of California (UC) Office of the President estimated a couple dozen online courses offered to students throughout the system.

With limited information on the current status of online education in California’s public higher education institutions, AB 895 is crucial in providing policymakers and the public with essential information.

· 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](#).

· Budget committee votes down unit cap, changes to faculty benefits

CFA scored a victory in the state budget process last as the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 on Education Finance rejected two problematic proposals put forth by the governor.

The Committee voted down a proposal from the governor to change the law concerning CSU contributions to pay for faculty health insurance. Currently, government code specifies that CSU management pay for health insurance for employees and for 90 percent of the weighted average cost for faculty dependents.

The governor's change would have given CSU management leverage to impose higher costs on CSU employees increasing the cost of our healthcare contributions significantly as a result.

The Committee also rejected a proposal by the governor that would have each higher ed system cap the number of classes students can take at 150 percent of what is necessary to complete most degrees—270 quarterly units at UC and 180 semester units at CSU.

While the committee's rejection of these problematic proposals is a significant step in ensuring they are not included in the final budget bill, the governor has the right to reinsert the provisions in his revised May Budget proposal.

If he feels strongly enough about the proposals, the Governor can even hold up the entire budget process demanding the inclusion of these or other proposals.

The governor is expected to release his May Revision on (or around) May 14.

· Links of the week

Open online courses – an avalanche that might just get stopped

Could massive online open courses – moocs – lead to back-door privatization in higher education? The UK should watch what is happening in California very closely. – [The Guardian](#)

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

Pedagogy of the Depressed

Huffington Post blog from CFA member Joseph Palermo – [Huffington Post](#)

Before MOOCs, 'Colleges of the Air'

In 1937, as she lay ill in bed, Annie Oakes Huntington, a writer living in Maine, thought of ways to spend her time. She confided in a letter: "The radio has been a source of unfailing diversion this winter. I expect to enter all the courses at Harvard to be broadcasted." Huntington was joining in an educational experiment sweeping the country in the 1920s and 30s: massive open *on-air* courses. – [Chronicle of Higher Ed](#)

New CSU chancellor showcases folksy style, break-dancing at Dominguez Hills in Carson

Timothy White, the new chancellor of the California State University system, introduced his folksy brand of leadership Tuesday to the Dominguez Hills campus in Carson, where he wandered about and chatted up students, professors and janitors alike. – [Contra Costa Times](#)

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