

From the California Faculty Association  
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## CFA HEADLINES

April 3, 2013 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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### · Tell Senator Steinberg SB 520 creates more problems than it solves

State Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) has introduced a bill he believes would help students who cannot get the classes they need to move toward graduation—so-called “bottleneck courses”—**by handing off up to 50 of these sections to private online education vendors.**

CFA has deep concerns about [Senate Bill 520](#).

CFA believes this bill will lower academic standards (particularly in key skills such as writing, math, and basic analysis), amplify the digital divide along socio-economic lines, and diminish the ability for underrepresented minorities to excel in higher education. In other words, SB 520 would worsen precisely the situation it claims to resolve.

Take action today by sending a message to the Pro Tem to let him know [that his bill creates more problems for our universities than it solves.](#)

### · Asm. Pan honored with first John Travis Leadership Award

On Tuesday the CFA honored Dr. Richard Pan (D - Sacramento), Chair of the Assembly Health Committee, with the first John Travis Leadership Award for his role in addressing the concerns of California State University Faculty.

“Since taking office in 2010, Dr. Pan has been with us advocating for public higher ed every step of the way,” said CFA President Lillian Taiz, a professor of History at CSU Los Angeles.



Taiz continued, “Dr. Pan has walked with us on the picket lines, met with our students during building occupations and advocated on our behalf in

the state legislature. Throughout his term he has shown a commitment to protecting affordable, accessible and high quality education in the CSU. Dr. Pan is also the first legislator that we know of to have a district office on campus. It is an honor to present him with this award.”

Pan’s exemplary legislative record on behalf of public higher education includes:

- Last year, Pan introduced ACR 164 and held a news conference with Sac State faculty calling for an open and transparent search for the new CSU Chancellor.
- In the last legislative cycle, Pan introduced AB 1965 sponsored by CFA, which would allow for a Ex-Officio members of the CSU Board of Trustees to send a designee to meeting, as in done for many other important State boards. This would provide an opportunity to improve governance relationships between CSU and key state policymakers.
- Although that bill did not pass last year, Pan has re-introduced it this year as AB 46 and it passed a key Assembly Committee a couple of weeks ago.

“Working with the California Faculty Association has truly been a highlight of my time in office,” said Dr. Pan, a former professor. “It is an honor to stand with faculty, students and school employees, whether we are on the picket line at CSU East Bay or testifying at the State Capitol in support of education. I look forward to the work we still have ahead to restore the promise of a quality higher education for every Californian.”

The award – formerly known as the ‘Legislator of the Year’ – is named in memory of former CFA President and long-time union stalwart John Travis, who passed away earlier this year.

CFA does not give out the award annually but only when a member of the legislature truly goes above and beyond on behalf of faculty and public higher education.

## **· Former Fullerton chapter president Mougo Nyaggah remembered**

It is with a heavy heart that CFA announces the passing of our brother Mougo Nyaggah, longtime CFA Chapter President at Fullerton.

“We are saddened by the loss of our friend Mougo. He was a committed union man and the chapter at Fullerton had made great strides in recent years under his leadership,” said CFA President Lillian Taiz.

Mougo was an associate professor of history and joined the faculty at CSUF in 1973. He was 75.



He is survived by his wife, Lynette, and four children. A memorial service will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church of Fullerton, 1145 W. Valencia Mesa Dr.

## · **Links of the week**

### **Resurrecting California's Public Universities**

Even before the recession hit, the public colleges and universities that educate more than 70 percent of the nation's students were suffering from dwindling state revenue. Their response, not surprisingly, was to raise tuition, slash course offerings and, in some cases, freeze or even reduce student enrollment. The damage was acute in California, whose once-glorious system of higher education effectively cannibalized itself, shutting out a growing number of well-qualified students. – [New York Times](#)

### **CSU pushing into the online world**

Even while a systemwide approach is being pursued through Cal State Online, professors are being encouraged to embrace digital education at their individual campuses. Cal State San Marcos recently held an online institute attended by 16 professors who plan to convert classes to online formats this summer. The university plans to launch its first online degree program, a master's in education in literacy, in the summer. – [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

### **Online Rx for 'Cost Disease'**

Universities must slow the rising cost of higher education or risk losing the support of the American public, the president emeritus of Princeton University, William Bowen, argues in his new book. – [Inside Higher Ed](#)

### **Proudly Public: Standing with California's Faculty**

This week, faculty senate leaders of all three public higher ed systems in California (the community colleges, state colleges, and University of California system) made the bold move jointly to express opposition to a plan that would encourage major growth in massive online courses, or MOOCs. The idea of the shift to online instruction, floated as a bill in the California state Senate, is ostensibly to relieve serious overcrowding and budget shortfalls in the schools. – [Stem Equity Blog](#)

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