



New Faculty Majority: The National Coalition for Adjunct and Contingent Equity supports the **California Faculty Association (CFA)** in their one-day strike on two campuses on November 17, 2011.

CFA is currently bargaining two contracts. The previously-bargained 2007-2010 contract was re-opened, and most of the raises provided by that contract were never realized. CFA is asking for a modest portion of those raises: 1% for each of two years. The Chancellor's Office says the CSU doesn't have enough money, but two different neutral fact-finders disagree, arguing, along with CFA, that the CSU does indeed have enough money. The raises given to top administrators and increase in top administrative positions during the same period also suggest that this battle is about priorities, not about money.

Solidarity and strength are especially important in this battle, because it will set the stage for the coming battle for the successor contract. The nation will be watching that upcoming fight, which will be especially important for contingent faculty everywhere. Contingent faculty in the CSU—about half the faculty in the CSU—currently enjoy much more dignified and reasonable working conditions than most of their colleagues on contingent appointments elsewhere in the country. These comparably better conditions were achieved through faculty solidarity which continues to serve as a model for faculty everywhere and which enhances the ability of all faculty to serve their students with the level of quality we expect of college professors. The protections of Lecturers' three-year contracts might be in jeopardy in the successor contract battle.

The strike on November 17 is one battle in the larger struggle for higher education. Students can only receive the education that is their human right if all their teachers are provided with conditions that allow them to do their jobs with dignity. New Faculty Majority, and contingent faculty members everywhere, will be watching what happens in California this week.