

DRAFT

RESOLUTION TO FUND THE CSUs BY DEFUNDING CA PRISONS

ENDORSEMENTS

SFSU-CFA Executive Board — March 12, 2025
SFSU-CFA Department Representatives — March 13, 2025
CFA Immigration Task Force — March 19, 2025
CFA Counselors Committee — April 3, 2025
CFA LGBTQIA+ Caucus — April 8, 2025
CFA Disability Caucus — April 8, 2025
CFA Chicanx/Latinx Caucus — April 9, 2025
CFA Black Caucus — April 9, 2025
CFA Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Caucus - April 9, 2025
Retired Faculty Committee - April 11, 2025
Retired Benefits Committee - April 11, 2025
CFA Political Action and Legislation Committee - April 11, 2025
Palestine, Arab, and Muslim Caucus - April 11, 2025
Womxn's Caucus - April 11, 2025
Lecturers' Council - April 11, 2025
Council of Presidents - April 11, 2025
Council for Racial and Social Justice - April 11, 2025

RATIONALE

This resolution derives from both the practical considerations of state budget allotment as recommended by the California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), as well as the longstanding liberatory movement to abolish the prison-industrial complex (PIC) in California.

In the same time period that the State of California increased funding to build and fill prisons — from 3% of the General Fund in 1970 to 9% in 2018 — funding for the CSUs dropped from 4.4% to 2.4% of the CA General Fund, the latter representing a \$1.9 billion difference.

But the California prison population has been declining rapidly; though at its peak in 2007, there were 170,000 incarcerated people in California prisons, this number has dropped to 91,000 and is projected to decline to 80,000 in the next 8 years. Thus, California has seen consistent *decarceration* of the population of incarcerated people. As such, the LAO has recommended closing 5 prisons, for a savings of roughly \$1 billion.

Meanwhile, the Cal State University student population has risen from 350,254 in 1998 to 454,640 in 2023. Notably, public funding of the CSU declined as our CSU student population grew in size and racial diversity. During this time period, tuition has risen, increasing the cost burden to students as the State has left the system's ongoing operations underfunded.

WHEREAS, the CSU is facing dramatic budget cuts projected for at least the next 4 fiscal years and has implemented annual tuition increases of 6% for the next 5 years; and

WHEREAS, the California General Fund historically decreased funding for higher education as it simultaneously *increased* funding for the California prison system; and

WHEREAS, the current population of incarcerated persons in California is down to 84% of the court-imposed cap on population and is projected to drop to under 80% by 2028; and

WHEREAS, [in 2024 the CA Legislative Analyst's Office recommended](#) the closure of 5 California prisons for an annual savings of at least \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, as a social justice union we continue the tradition of the Third World Liberation Studies (now known as Ethnic Studies) and are committed to fighting for public education that is accessible without tuition or fees; and

WHEREAS, the CFA successfully divested our California Public Employees Retirement Systems (CalPERS) public pension fund from public companies that profit from migrant detention, namely CoreCivic and GEO Group, in April of 2019; and

WHEREAS, in the current system our tax dollars are diverted from social welfare and toward carceral facilities and the commercial industries that benefit from them (i.e. the prison-industrial complex) incentivized to surveil, capture and incarcerate the working class; therefore be it

RESOLVED that CFA will work to close prisons and redirect those funds toward the CSU; and be it further

RESOLVED that the CFA will consider devoting political action resources to lobbying the CA state legislature to achieve this; and be it further

RESOLVED that CFA will provide members with resources to support the campaign through outreach, media and direct actions; and be it further

RESOLVED that student groups, such as Associated Students and Students for Quality Education and any other student organization aligned with and willing to support this campaign, will be encouraged to join us in this campaign; and be it further

RESOLVED that other unions working in the CSU and California public higher education, as well as community partners, will be encouraged to join us in this campaign; and be it further

RESOLVED that this campaign to close prisons will support the repurposing of state prison facilities towards life-affirming institutions and economic activity through a just transition that will benefit local communities where prisons are currently sited, and that this campaign stands against the selling of decommissioned state prisons to any entity (i.e. a government or enterprise) for incarceration or detention; and be it finally

RESOLVED that any and all funding redirected from prison closures will go directly to classroom needs (teaching and learning) and student support and wellness (e.g. CSU mental health counseling), and not administrative bloat nor investment portfolios.