

## From the California Faculty Association

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**January 23, 2008 - Weekly news digest from CFA**

### **CSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- Trustees tackle CSU budget crisis
- Ad Hoc Committee makes recommendations on state audits

### **THE CSU BUDGET**

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- San Jose Mercury News editorializes against higher education cuts
- Send a letter to the editor about the budget

### **FEB. 5 ELECTION**

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- Attend CFA's equity conference

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### **CSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

#### **- TRUSTEES TACKLE BUDGET CRISIS**

The main topic of discussion at this week's CSU Board of Trustees meeting was Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget for 2008/09, which includes more than \$386 million in cuts to the CSU system.

CFA President Lillian Taiz spoke to the Trustees about the importance of this budget fight to the future of the CSU, and stated that CFA has already begun to gear up.

"CFA is already preparing for the fight ahead," Taiz said. "This weekend over 100 faculty activists were briefed on the work that is before us."

“Our statewide organization has begun to reach out to labor and community allies,” Taiz continued. “Our members are ready to step up to the plate to fight for the CSU budget. In such challenging times extraordinary steps have to be taken.”

CSU Board of Trustees Chair Roberta Achtenberg thanked Taiz and CFA for extending an olive branch at the November Board of Trustees meeting to the administration to work collaboratively on the budget, stating that the move “was bold and welcome.”

Achtenberg stressed the importance of this budget fight “to reverse course from the disinvestment in higher education and in the CSU.”

“I believe that when we bring our unified message to the various communities – legislature, editorial boards and businesses – that we will have many allies in our struggle. It is absolutely key that we speak with one voice to anyone who is willing to listen to us,” said Achtenberg.

Lt. Governor John Garamendi told the Trustees that, “the current budget is completely unacceptable to the future of education in California.”

The overall tone of the meeting was amiable, with nearly all parties in attendance agreeing that the budget crisis facing the system will require mutual assistance.

CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed struck a conciliatory tone when discussing the need for cooperation when advocating for the budget. He stated that the CSU administration is committed to working with the faculty, students, staff, alumni and other CSU supporters to fight for the necessary funding.

“I want everyone to know that we need to take the (proposed budget) numbers to the politicians, businesses and editorial boards and let them know what kind of California we want,” said Reed. “We are on our way to building world class prisons and second class universities.”

A number of students were also at the meeting, and California State Student Association President Dina Cervantes invited all those in attendance to participate in her organization’s march on the Capitol against the budget crisis April 21.

## **- TRUSTEES MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON STATE AUDIT REPORTS**

The Board of Trustees also used this week’s meeting as an opportunity to respond to two state audits of the CSU released late last year.

The Trustees’ special Ad Hoc Committee on the Bureau of State Audits Reports made several recommendations on what corrective action the CSU will take to

respond to the audits. The Chancellor stated that he will report to State Auditor Elaine Howle every six months on the system's progress.

CFA's analysis of the audit on executive compensation can be viewed at: [http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/researchcntr/2007/auditrpt\\_final\\_111207.pdf](http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/researchcntr/2007/auditrpt_final_111207.pdf)

To find out more on CFA's thoughts on hiring and diversity in the CSU, view the Council for Affirmative Action's Proposition 209 brochure: [http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/PROP\\_209\\_BOOKLET.pdf](http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/PROP_209_BOOKLET.pdf)

Both reports from the auditor can be viewed online at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/>

## **THE CSU BUDGET**

### **- ENROLLMENT DEADLINE MOVED UP**

CSU Chancellor Charles Reed announced last week that he has moved up the system's annual freshman application deadline to February 1, in light of the \$386 million in proposed budget cuts facing the system.

While freshman application deadlines typically vary by campus – with the bulk of students applying before the CSU's November priority deadline – advocates warn that this change in application deadline is likely to affect disproportionately minority and first-generation college students.

The deadline to apply for the seven CSU campuses that are not currently over their enrollment targets has been extended to March 1. The change also affects the transfer student application deadline, which has been moved up to April 1.

"CFA has worked hard over the years to ensure access to the CSU," said CFA Vice President Kim Gerón, a political science professor at CSU East Bay and chair of CFA's student internship program.

"We are saddened to see the enrollment cutoff being moved up, but faculty members know that it does no good to admit students when there is no money in the system to provide them with the classes and support services they need to graduate."

To find out more on this issue, go to: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/01/17/BA8NUGII8.DTL>

### **- SAN JOSE PAPER EDITORIALIZES ON CUTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING**

On Sunday, the San Jose Mercury News published an editorial criticizing the governor for his proposed cuts to higher education spending in the upcoming year.

The article backed up what CFA has been saying for years: that “California needs the steady flow of an educated workforce to thrive...” and that the CSU, along with the other branches of higher education in the state, is critical in training tomorrow’s workers.

To view the editorial, go to:

[http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper\\_articles/2008/SJMerc\\_012008\\_editorial.pdf](http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper_articles/2008/SJMerc_012008_editorial.pdf)

## **- SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

CFA asks all faculty members who live in the San Jose area to send a letter to paper thanking them for the editorial. Also, CFA asks faculty members from other parts of the state to write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper today and let them know importance of higher education funding to the future of our state.

Letters serve three important purposes:

1. They show assignment editors that readers, listeners and viewers are interested in a topic. Letters encourage them to continue to report on that topic.
2. Letters pages of newspapers and letters segments on TV and radio are popular items. Letters add our angle to the public discussion.
3. When editors receive a bunch of letters on a topic, they will run one. So even if your letter is not published, it helps to convince the editor to publish one of them.

To find out more about sending a letter to the editor, go to:

<http://www.calfac.org/letter.html>

## **FEB. 5 ELECTION**

### **- TWO MORE NEWSPAPERS OPPOSE PROP. 92**

The list of newspapers and political organizations opposing Proposition 92 continues to grow, as both the Fresno Bee and the North County Times printed editorials Sunday urging voters to vote “No” on the measure.

CFA opposes the proposition because it locks in a massive funding mandate into the state constitution without providing a way to pay for it.

“The community colleges play a critical role in the Master Plan for Higher Education, providing access for many Californians who have no other collegiate opportunities,” said John Travis, Chair of CFA’s Political Action and Legislation Committee.

“But the public higher education system in this state has three segments. In order to address the problems of an accessible, affordable, high quality public higher education, all the segments have to be involved,” Travis said.

To view a full list of the organizations that oppose Proposition 92 and find out more about why CFA and many others oppose the measure, go to:

<http://www.noprop92.org/>

## **- CFA SUPPORTS TERM LIMITS REFORM MEASURE**

The California Faculty Association has endorsed Proposition 93 – the Term Limits and Legislative Reform Act – and encourages members of the university community to vote “Yes” on the measure.

If passed, Prop. 93 would reduce the total time a legislator can serve in the State Legislature from 14 to 12 years, allowing all 12 years to be served entirely in the State Assembly, State Senate, or a combination of both.

“Proposition 93 will give our legislators the time they need to ‘know their stuff’ and make the best possible decisions for California,” said CFA President Lillian Taiz.

CFA joins the following organizations and individuals in supporting the measure: the California Teachers Association (CTA), California School Employees Association (CSEA), California State Democratic Party, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell and many others.

For more information on Proposition 93, go to: [www.termlimitsreform.com](http://www.termlimitsreform.com)

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **- MUNITZ SELLING TEST PREP. SOFTWARE; HEARING ON APPOINTMENT SET FOR NEXT WEEK**

Disgraced former Chancellor Barry Munitz is back in the public eye as he is now shilling test-prep software on the internet.

To view Munitz' sales pitch, go to:

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/personal-tutors-and-courses-for-sat-prep-available-at-globalscholarcom,257459.shtml>

Munitz is currently raking in a six-figure salary for teaching one class at CSU Los Angeles under the CSU's Trustee professorship program.

Additionally, oral arguments in CFA's lawsuit against the CSU involving open meetings violations in his hiring will take place next Tuesday, January 29.

The lawsuit argues that the CSU administration's secret appointment of former chancellor Barry Munitz to the CSU Los Angeles faculty, along with a lucrative fundraising position, violated the state's open meeting law.

To find out more about Barry Munitz and why CFA opposes his re-hiring by the CSU go to: <http://www.calfac.org/munitz.html>

## **· ATTEND THE CFA EQUITY CONFERENCE**

CFA's Council for Affirmative Action will hold its biennial equity conference in March and is encouraging all faculty members interested in promoting diversity to attend.

The equity conference is an excellent way to connect with other faculty who wish to make a difference in CFA and the CSU regarding diversity. The theme of the event will be "building power through diversity and equity."

To find out more about the conference, go to: <http://www.calfac.org/affirm.html>

For more sign up information, please contact your CFA Chapter President or Affirmative Action Representative. To view a list of chapter contacts, go to: <http://www.calfac.org/chapters.html>

## **· VIEW THE WINTER 2007/08 CFA MAGAZINE**

The Winter 2007/08 edition of California Faculty magazine is now available to be viewed online.

This issue of the magazine features stories on: Building Power, a message from CFA president Taiz, a question and answer with Lt. Governor John Garamendi, a special pullout section on the state auditor's report on executive pay, and more.

The magazine can be viewed at: <http://www.calfac.org/magazine.html>

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Jan 29**

Hearing in CFA open meeting lawsuit on hire of Barry Munitz  
Los Angeles Superior Court

**March 13-15**

CFA Equity Conference: Building Power Through Diversity & Equity  
For more info go to: <http://www.calfac.org/affirm.html>

**April 21**

CSSA march at the Capitol

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