

From the California Faculty Association

cfa@calfac.org or <http://www.calfac.org>

February 12, 2008 - Weekly news digest from CFA

THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

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THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

· CFA BOARD DISCUSSES BUDGET

The CSU budget was the chief topic of conversation at CFA Board of Directors' meeting in Los Angeles last weekend. In response to reports that some local campus administrators are threatening to act prematurely on possible budget reductions, CFA President Lillian Taiz told the CFA Board, "There is nothing to gain from acquiescence. It is premature at this point to be threatening layoffs and canceling sections."

San Marcos faculty member George Diehr, who also serves on the CalPERS Board of Administration, backed up Taiz's statement saying, "The situation is definitely bad, but it's not time for panic. It's time for action."

Diehr went on to explain that all the cuts are only proposals. "Nothing has actually been cut. Let's start thinking about solutions instead of rushing to make cuts. If we give in and just start cutting that's not leadership."

David Bradfield, CFA's Associate Vice President South, emphasized that the union can overcome the budget obstacle by acting now.

"If we become obsessed with their plans for anticipated disaster, then it will become a self-fulfilling prophecy," said Bradfield. "We need to realize that we can change this by taking the necessary steps now."

- BUDGET CUTS TO THE CSU ARE ANYTHING BUT INEVITABLE

To further allay anxiety on campus, CFA President Lillian Taiz pointed out that the union has overcome long odds before.

"If we have learned anything from recent history, it is that nothing is inevitable," said Taiz. "When the governor announced his 2005 propositions people told us there was no way that these measures could be stopped. However, when election night came the propositions went down in flames.

"When we set out to provide our members with one of the best contracts in the country, our critics said it was impossible. Through hard work we were able to achieve a monumental contract victory.

"Just last summer ranking members of the legislature told us that cuts to the CSU budget were a done deal. But less than 24 hours later our members had convinced lawmakers to fully fund the CSU compact.

"So, when certain members of the campus community look at the looming budget crisis and say that drastic cuts to the CSU are all but assured, I say to them nothing is inevitable when we are united. We can succeed in protecting vital CSU funding."

To find out the latest on the CSU budget, go to: <http://www.calfac.org/budget08-09.html>

- STATE SEN. DUCHENY VISITS SAN MARCOS

At the invitation of CFA, Sen. Denise Moreno Ducheny – Chair of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee – traveled to CSU San Marcos last week to meet with faculty members and administrators about the state budget.

Ducheny emphasized that citizens must help decide the state's spending priorities and urged those in attendance to "get creative" when looking for solutions to the budget crunch.

Ducheny's visit followed the publication of an opinion piece in the San Diego Union Tribune on February 3, 2008, in which she wrote, "He (Gov. Schwarzenegger) asks financially strapped students who have seen student fees double over the past five years to pay more for college, but asks no additional sacrifice from our wealthiest citizens or corporations.

"Proposing across-the-board cuts avoids the hard decisions involved in setting priorities and the careful analysis of the effects of those cuts on California's families, communities and economy. Are we prepared to accept larger class sizes for our students? Are we willing to turn away eligible students from our institutions of higher education?"

To view the full editorial, go to: <http://www.calfac.org/inthenews.html>

- READ CFA'S ANALYSIS OF CSU BUDGET

CFA's in-depth analysis of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed 2008/09 budget for the CSU is now complete and available to be viewed online.

The document is available to view online at:

http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/Budget_08_09/Budget_Brief_020508.pdf

CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT

- EQUITY PROGRAM APPROVED BY CFA BOARD

The tentative agreement on equity pay – first announced two weeks ago – was approved over the weekend by the CFA Board of Directors.

More information on the program including a fact sheet and the memorandum of understanding between CFA and the CSU Administration can be viewed at:

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

If after reviewing these documents you have further questions about equity pay, send an email to: equityprogram@calfac.org

Your questions will be answered promptly.

- EQUITY PAY AND CAMPUS BUDGETS

Only days after the announcement of an agreement on equity pay for faculty members experiencing “inversion” on the pay scale, administrators on some campuses began to state that they may have to cut other areas to pay for the program.

Each campus received the full funding from the Chancellor's Office for the academic year and they were explicitly told that an equity settlement was part of their costs. As a consequence, plan for the implementation of the program.

For background on the equity pay program, view Article 31.17 of the collective bargaining agreement, at:

http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/contractpages2007/Article_31.pdf

ELECTION RECAP

- PROP. 92 COMES UP SHORT

Proposition 92 – the Community College Funding, Governance and Fees Initiative, which CFA opposes, was rejected last week by a no vote of nearly 60 percent.

In the wake of this failure, CFA leaders reiterated their wish to work collaboratively with Community College leaders to advocate for better funding for all segments of higher education in California.

“We know that our colleagues in the community colleges are disappointed. We believe it is the time for all sectors of public higher education to unite to protect the vision articulated by the Master Plan for Higher Education in California,” said John Travis, Chair of CFA’s Political Action and Legislation Committee.

- LEADERSHIP CHANGES COMING IN THE WAKE OF PROP. 93

Proposition 93 – a measure that would have altered term limits for state legislators – was defeated by a narrow margin in last Tuesday’s election.

CFA had supported the measure because it would have given legislators more time to build expertise and begin to address, in a meaningful way, the budget problems facing California.

Following the failure of the measure, shake-ups have already begun in the leadership of both the Assembly and the Senate.

Senator Darrell Steinberg of Sacramento was chosen late last week to succeed Don Perata of Oakland as Senate President Pro Tem. Perata will term out of the Senate this year.

“Senator Steinberg has long been an ardent supporter of public higher education in the Assembly and the Senate, and we look forward to working with him in the years to come,” said Travis.

OTHER NEWS

- PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 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 members 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 including registration information and a schedule of events, go to: <http://www.calfac.org/affirm.html>

- VIEW THE WINTER 2007/08 CFA MAGAZINE

The Winter 2007/08 edition of California Faculty magazine is now available to be viewed online and is in your campus mailbox. If you have not received your copy, please contact the CFA chapter on your campus.

This issue of the magazine features stories on: building power for CSU faculty, a message from CFA President Taiz about the CSU budget, a question and answer with Lt. Governor John Garamendi, a guest article by Assembly Higher Education Committee Chair Anthony Portantino, a special pull-out section on the state auditor’s report on executive pay, and more.

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

- CSU FACULTY MEMBER ELECTED TO CA. CONFERENCE OF AAUP

Patricia Hill, a history professor at San Jose, has been elected to represent CSU faculty on the California Conference of the American Association of University

Professors. Hill is CFA's former statewide secretary and past chair of the CFA chapter at San Jose.

To find out more about the California Conference of AAUP, go to:
<http://www.aaup-ca.org/index.html>

- SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR FOSTER YOUTH

The Foster Youth Education Fund – a non-profit organization providing educational from the foster care system – is now accepting applications in its annual grant program for young people in the Sacramento area.

These educational grants are awarded to youth who are emancipating from foster/kinship care and have successfully completed their high school education, or its equivalent.

The deadline to submit applications is Friday, February 15.

For an application or more information, please contact Cathy Murnighan at (916) 944-4935.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 18

Presidents' Day, CFA Offices closed

Feb 29 & March 7

CFA District Lobby Days– contact your CFA chapter office to participate, talk with state legislators about the CSU budget

March 11-12

CSU Board of Trustees Meeting
401 Golden Shore, Long Beach

March 13-15

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

March 31

Cesar Chavez Day, CFA Offices closed

April 21

CSSA march at the State Capitol about the CSU budget

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*See back issues of CFA Headlines, sent each Tuesday, at <http://www.calfac.org/headlines.html>
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