

From the California Faculty Association

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

March 18, 2008 - Weekly news digest from CFA

THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- Momentum builds on campus to fight proposed budget cuts
- Attend your All-Campus Budget Meeting
- SD Union Tribune: education cuts hurt California's economy and workforce
- Join the 'Alliance for the CSU'
- CFA testifies before senate budget committee

EQUITY CONFERENCE

- Equity conference promotes diversity in CSU
- Attend Long Beach diversity forum

OTHER NEWS

- Bendavid honored by State Assembly

UPCOMING EVENTS

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THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- MOMENTUM BUILDS ON CAMPUSES TO FIGHT PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

The movement to oppose the governor's proposed \$386 million budget cut to the California State University system continues to gain momentum going into six All-Campus Budget Fight Back Meetings scheduled for this week.

Last week saw a huge turnout of students, faculty, staff and administrators to meetings held on the San Marcos, East Bay, Monterey Bay, Northridge, San Bernardino and Fresno campuses.

At San Bernardino, San Francisco and Sacramento, more than 1,200 people participated in each meeting as halls were jammed and crowds were forced to utilize overflow rooms and simulcasts to view the meetings.

A monitoring report of broadcast news coverage reveals that television coverage alone – which did not include radio, internet or newspaper coverage – of last week's meetings reached more than a million homes throughout the state.

To view a portion of the news coverage garnered by these all-campus budget meetings, go to:

http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper_articles/2008/Roundup_031708_cmprmtg.pdf?_r=1&oref=slogin

To view samples of the TV coverage created by these meetings, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/AlliancefortheCSU>

- ATTEND YOUR ALL-CAMPUS MEETING

CFA is working with campus leaders to hold All-Campus meetings on the remaining CSU campuses.

The goal: to stop the governor's proposed budget cuts of more than \$386 million to the CSU system. The organization: the new Alliance for the CSU to advocate for proper funding for the system.

We strongly urge you to attend!

The following meetings are scheduled. More will be added in the coming weeks:

March 19: Cal. Maritime Academy, 11:50am-12:30, Rizza Auditorium

March 19: CSU Stanislaus, 11 am, Mary Stuart Rogers Gateway Center, room 130 (park in Lot 11)

March 20: Sonoma State, 12-1:30 pm, Person Theater

March 20: San Diego State, 12-1 pm, Scripps Cottage

March 24, Humboldt State, 12-1 pm, University Center's Kate Buchanan Room

March 25, CSU Fullerton, 11am-12:30 pm, Titan Student Union

March 26, CSU Long Beach, Noon, Speakers' Platform (next to Student Union)

March 27, CSU Channel Islands, Budget Fight Back Meeting, 12-12:50 pm, Petit Salon

April 2, Cal State Los Angeles, 12-2 pm, location to be announced

April 2, San Jose State, 12-1 pm, Student Union Ballroom

April 3, CSU Bakersfield, time and location to be announced

April 8, Cal Poly Pomona, 12-1 pm, Student Speech Area ("The Pancake")

April 8, CSU Chico, 10:30 am, Selvester's (on campus)

All-Campus Budget Fight Back Meetings have already been held at CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU San Marcos, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Fresno State, CSU San Bernardino, CSU East Bay, CSU Monterey Bay, CSU Northridge, San Francisco and Sacramento.

Please contact your campus CFA Chapter for more information and watch for the All-Campus Meeting coming up on your campus and plan to attend.

- SD UNION-TRIBUNE: CUTS HURT STATE'S WORKFORCE AND INFASTRUCTURE

Since the release of the Governor's proposed budget in January, CFA and others in the higher education community have asserted that cuts to the CSU will undermine future growth in the state by failing to meet California's human infrastructure needs.

Recently, many in the business community have begun to back up this assertion.

The negative impact of budget cuts on education were highlighted in a column published Sunday by San Diego Union Tribune columnist Dean Calbreath about the Workforce Summit 2008, a meeting of San Diego Business leaders. Calbreath wrote:

"The focus of the meeting, which was sponsored by CommNexus San Diego – formerly the San Diego Telecom Council – was on university-level education. But the message was the same: The education system is not producing workers with the kind of skills needed of the modern workplace.

"Finding and retaining new high-tech talent in San Diego has never been a bigger crisis," read a CommNexus flier advertising the meeting. "San Diego is facing serious concerns with the current state of our technical-talent work force."

Calbreath continued, "(Gov. Schwarzenegger) pledged that he would 'consider' boosting funding 'when our budget picture is brighter.'

"But considering the impact that education has on the California work force, it might be better to do more than just 'consider' the panel's recommendation. No matter how dark our budget picture is, taking an ax to education could make it a bit darker. "

To view the full article, go to:

http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper_articles/2008/SDUT_031708_workforce.pdf?_r=1&oref=slogin

- JOIN THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CSU

To protect the future of the California State University, a coalition of higher education supporters has banded together to create the "Alliance for the CSU."

The Alliance seeks to educate lawmakers and the community about the fact that the CSU is the solution to California's economic challenges, not the problem.

The Alliance for the CSU includes those who care about the future of the state and its state university system - among them students, alumni, faculty, CSU staff, administrators, parents of CSU students, employers, church leaders, labor union members, and people who depend on and enjoy the many assets the California State University adds to our communities and cities.

To learn more about the Alliance and find out how you can get involved, go to: <http://www.alliancefortheesu.org/>

- CFA TESTIFIES BEFORE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Even as thousands of faculty members congregated at budget meetings across the state, CFA's governmental relations team was working hard in Sacramento to convey the gravity of these budget cuts to members of the state legislature.

John Travis, Chair of CFA's Political Action and Legislation Committee, testified before the Senate Budget Committee about the importance of funding higher education. Travis stated:

"CFA believes this is a pivotal turning point for California and the CSU. For the first time in our history, state budget cuts could force the CSU this fall to deny access to at least 10,000 eligible students.

"The governor's proposed budget cuts will only further exacerbate the depletion of an operating budget that has never fully recovered from the more than half billion dollars in general fund cuts the state inflicted on the CSU five years ago.

"In fact, when one accounts for inflation – which is the honest way to compare our budgets – the CSU's general fund budget today is below state funding levels the CSU was given in 2002.

"At this point in our history, will the state provide educational opportunities for students and their families who have spent the previous 12 years achieving their academic goals, or will we deny these students access to a public university education?"

EQUITY CONFERENCE

- EQUITY CONFERENCE A ROUSING SUCCESS

The 2008 CFA Equity Conference last weekend was a major success, according to the faculty who attended the meeting.

This year's event brought approximately 300 faculty members from across the state together to discuss issues of race, gender and equity in the California State University, as well as the possible implications of budget cuts to the system.

Cecil Canton, CFA's Associate Vice President for Affirmative Action, summed up the event by saying: "I am proud to say that this conference, and the workshops and themes which comprise it, was developed and produced by the CFA Caucuses, in cooperation with the Council for Affirmative Action."

Canton continued, "Throughout the two days we had a wide array of interesting panels and workshops, as well as provocative speakers."

The Saturday keynote, an event highlight, was delivered by State Senator Dean Florez, Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Gender Discrimination and Title IX Enforcement. He spoke about the need to eliminate gender and ethnic discrimination throughout the CSU, and especially at Fresno State.

Florez also stated that he strongly supports CFA's efforts to protect CSU funding.

To learn more about the council for Affirmative Action, go to:

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

- ATTEND LONG BEACH DIVERSITY FORUM

Following closely on the heels of CFA's bi-annual Equity Conference comes another opportunity to promote diversity and equity in the CSU system.

On Wednesday, March 19, from 12:30 - 2 pm, the Long Beach CFA chapter will host a forum on "the Benefits of Diversity on Student Outcomes."

The event – which will take place in the Karl Anatol Center – will feature a panel of CSULB faculty and student representatives who will share their insights on diversity in higher education.

For more information, contact the Long Beach CFA chapter at: 562-985-5165.

OTHER NEWS

- BENDAVID HONORED BY LEGISLATURE

CFA activist and CSU Northridge faculty member Cecile Bendavid was honored last week by the California State Assembly.

Assemblymember Lloyd Levine presided over the ceremony, which honored Bendavid as the 40th Assembly District's "Woman of the Year" for her service to both her campus and the community. Levine stated:

“Cecile Bendavid’s tireless commitment to higher education in Southern California is truly inspiring – if all she did was devote her time to teaching our youth, she would deserve this honor. However, when one considers all she does to promote higher education in California while also balancing her career as a successful businesswoman, her achievements are even more incredible,” Assemblymember Levine said.

In addition to her work as a faculty member in the Northridge computer science department, Bendavid previously served on CFA’s Political Action and Legislation Committee.

To learn more about the award, go to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a40/press/20080310AD40PR01.htm>

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CSU Channel Islands, 12-12:50 pm, Petit Salon

March 31

Cesar Chavez Day, CFA Offices closed

April 2

Cal State Los Angeles, 12-2 pm, location to be announced

San Jose State, 12-1 pm, Student Union Ballroom

April 3

CSU Bakersfield, time and location to be announced

April 8

Cal Poly Pomona, 12-1 pm, Student Speech Area (“The Pancake”)

CSU Chico, 10:30 am, Selvester’s (on campus)

April 12-13

68th CFA Assembly, Los Angeles

For more info contact you CFA Campus Chapter

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