

From the California Faculty Association

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

April 29, 2008 - Weekly news digest from CFA

THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- Capitol lobby days to focus on budget
- Editorial decries budget cuts

THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CSU

- Thousands send messages to the governor opposing budget cuts
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- System leaders warn of danger of budget cuts
- CSUEU passes resolution in support of Alliance
- Join the Alliance for the CSU
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CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT

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OTHER EVENTS

- Monterey Bay chapter to host labor film festival

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THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- CAPITOL LOBBY DAYS TO FOCUS ON BUDGET

With the threat of \$386 million in budget cuts looming, more than 100 faculty members plus students will take on the role of lobbyist-for-a-day this week as part of CFA annual Capitol Lobby Days in Sacramento.

The event will give faculty advocates an opportunity to strengthen the voice of the CSU in the Capitol.

This year the conversations with state lawmakers will focus on the CSU budget to make it clear to lawmakers on both sides of the aisle that the CSU is the solution to California's economic struggles.

“With the ‘May Revise’ just around the corner, it is more important now than ever to have a strong presence at the Capitol for our lobby days,” said John Travis Chair of CFA’s Political Action/Legislative Committee.

In conjunction with this year’s lobby day event CFA will hold a media conference to announce the release of a report which analyzes the long term economic and fiscal impact of the governor’s proposed cuts to the CSU.

The report will outline how cuts to the CSU will impact tax revenues and other costs for the state in the future.

To learn more about the media conference, go to:
<http://www.calfac.org/releases.html>

A full report on both lobby day and the economic impact report will be included in next week’s edition of *CFA Headlines*.

- EDITORIAL DECRIES BUDGET CUTS

An opinion piece by columnist Peter Shrag last Wednesday in the Sacramento Bee affirmed CFA’s long-standing case that the CSU is grossly under funded in the state budget.

The piece clearly articulates how limited funding for all three segments of higher education in California have put them on a starvation diet that will result an erosion in both educational quality and access for students.

Shrag wrote: “(There) is increasing certainty among a growing number of people that the funding compacts the universities made with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger during the last fiscal crisis put them on a long-term downward trajectory that will continue to erode quality, limit access and permanently damage what for decades was the nation’s premier system of public higher education.”

To view the full article, go to:
http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper_articles/2008/SacBee_042308_column.pdf?_r=1&oref=slogin

ALLIANCE FOR THE CSU

- THOUSANDS SEND MESSAGES TO GOV. OPPOSING BUDGET CUTS

Faculty members, students, staff and administrators picked up the phone at events across the state last week to ask the governor, “Can you hear us now?”

As far south as San Diego County and as far north as Humboldt, members of the Alliance for the CSU tallied more than 800 phone calls and also sent nearly 6,000 faxes to the Governor's local district offices to make it clear that the CSU is the solution to California's economic troubles and any cuts to the system will only worsen the budget deficit.

To view a sampling of the media coverage generated by these call/fax days go to: www.calfac.org/inthenews.html

Broadcast news coverage can also be viewed on youtube.com at:

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

- ATTEND UPCOMING "GOV. CAN YOU HEAR US NOW?" CALL/FAX DAYS

The Alliance for the CSU will continue its statewide "Gov: Can You Hear Us Now?" call and fax days this week across the state.

CSU campuses will set up outdoor phone banks for students, faculty, staff, and administrators to call and fax the Governor with one simple message: The CSU is the solution to California's troubled economy; restore the funding!

The Governor's phone will begin ringing on the following dates:

--CSU Monterey Bay: Thu, May 1, Noon, Quad, more info 831-582-3028

--Sacramento State: Thu, May 1, 10 am to 4 pm, Two locations: Library Quad and the River Front food court, more info 916-761-0194

--Cal State Los Angeles: Thu, May 1, 11 am to 2 pm, Main Walkway, more info 323-343-5310

--CSU Stanislaus: Mon May 5, 11 am to 2 pm, Quad, more info 559-260-1679

--San Jose State: Tue May 6, 9 am to 6 pm, Front of Student Union, more info (408) 924-6501

--CSU East Bay: Tue May 6, 10am to 2:30 pm in front Library & 5 to 7 pm in front of Meikeljohn Hall, more info 310-748-1730

--San Diego State: Wed, May 7, time & place TBA, more info 858-335-6339

--CSU Chico: Thu, May 8, 10am-3pm, Kendall Lawn, more info 916-761-0194

--CSU Northridge: Thu, May 8, 10 am to 2 pm, place TBA, for more info call 818-677-5919

--San Francisco State: Thu, May 8, 9 am to 5 pm, First Floor Lobby, Cesar Chavez Student Center, more info 415-338-6232

--CSU Channel Islands: Thu May 8, in front of Library, time TBA, more info (805) 437-8872

Call/fax days have already been held at Sonoma, San Bernardino, Bakersfield, Dominguez Hills, Pomona, San Marcos, Fresno, Long Beach, Humboldt and Fullerton.

- HIGHER ED LEADERS WARN OF THE DANGERS OF BUDGET CUTS

System leaders from all three segments of higher education in California – UC, CSU and Community Colleges – gathered with students, staff, faculty, alumni and union leaders on Monday to send a strong message to state lawmakers about the perils of cutting higher education.

The rare collaboration between CSU Chancellor Charles Reed, outgoing UC President Robert Dynes and Community College Chancellor Diane Woodruff comes at a time when the governor has put forward a proposal to slash \$1.3 billion dollars in higher education funding.

“Monday’s event shows the unity of the higher education community against these ill conceived cuts,” said CFA President Lillian Taiz who represented the CSU faculty at the event.

The gathering was part of the CSU’s annual alumni lobby day event in Sacramento.

Throughout the event Reed, Dynes and Woodruff continually reinforced the dangers to California’s future economic stability should the proposed cuts go through.

"I really believe California is at a crossroads—a political, educational, cultural, economic crossroads," CSU Chancellor Charles Reed said. "Is the state going to dedicate its resources to invest in young people's futures, invest in California's wherewithal, or disinvest?"

- CSU EMPLOYEES UNION PASSES RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ALLIANCE

The Alliance for the CSU continues to gain advocates and supporters throughout the education and labor community in California.

The California State University Employees Union (CSUEU) and its parent union, the California State Employees Association, passed a resolution earlier this month endorsing the Alliance.

CSUEU has played an important role in the Alliance and is mobilizing its membership to advocate for solutions and to oppose the "cuts only" approach by the governor.

To learn more about this resolution and CSUEU, go to: <http://www.csueu.org/>

- JOIN THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CSU

Sign up today to be part of this growing coalition of 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.

It takes less than a minute to sign up. Be ready, so that at key moments in the budget process – which unfortunately can happen this summer when most faculty and students are away from campus – the Alliance can contact you with important alerts.

Add your name to the Alliance for the CSU today at:

<http://www.alliancefortheesu.org/signup.html>

- WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP: #5 TELL A FRIEND

On the Alliance for the CSU website you can view the “10 ways you can help” the CSU.

Download it at:

<http://www.alliancefortheesu.org/Resources/10%20things%20you%20can%20do.pdf>

This week’s suggestion: Tell a friend!

By reaching out to friends or colleagues and asking them to join the Alliance, you can raise awareness about the looming budget cuts and build the Alliance for the CSU.

To send an email to friends or colleagues asking them to join the Alliance, go to:

http://www.alliancefortheesu.org/tell_friend.php

CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT

- VIEW RECENT FACULTY RIGHTS DECISIONS ONLINE

CFA's representation program has been on a roll over the last several weeks, having won a number of important decisions that extend the rights of the faculty under the collective bargaining agreement.

To view these important recent decisions visit the faculty rights page on the CFA website at: <http://www.calfac.org/represources.html>

OTHER EVENTS

- MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER TO HOST LABOR FILM FESTIVAL

The CSU Monterey Bay Chapter of CFA will co-sponsor "Reel Work 2008," an annual May Day labor film festival held in and around Santa Cruz County.

The event will feature dozens of films about the labor movement including local and international works, world premieres, and classics.

Highlights include "Pete Seeger: The Power of Song," a film about the legendary folk singer, as well as "Made in L.A. - Hecho en Los Angeles," a winner of this year's prestigious Henry Hampton Award for Excellence in Film & Digital Media.

In addition to the Monterey Bay CFA chapter, event co-sponsors include the Monterey Bay Labor Council, the University of California Miguel Contreras Labor Studies Development Fund, Community Television of Santa Cruz County, Community Printers, Nickelodeon Theatre, and many local unions.

Admission to the film showings is by voluntary donation. For a full schedule, venue list and other updates, go to: www.reelwork.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 29-30

CFA Lobby Days at the State Capitol
Contact your campus CFA chapter for information

May 1

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*See back issues of CFA Headlines, sent each Tuesday, at <http://www.calfac.org/headlines.html>
Update your contact info in the CFA member database at the "Help Desk" at <http://www.calfac.org>*

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