

From the California Faculty Association

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- Governor responds to CFA study

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- Join/Help the Alliance for the CSU

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- New loyalty oath flap

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CSU IMPACT ON STATE ECONOMY

· NEW REPORT REVEALS ECONOMIC, FISCAL LOSSES IF CSU CUTS LEAD TO FEWER GRADUATES

A new report prepared by the Blue Sky Consulting Group shows that proposed cuts to the CSU would have a long-term negative impact on the state’s economic health.

The report – commissioned by CFA and released to the media during the union’s Capitol Lobby Day event last week – examined the role the CSU plays in the state’s economy.

The report authors Tim Gage (former director of California's Dept. of Finance), Matt Newman and Trisha McMahon found that "demographic and economic trends clearly argue for increasing, rather than decreasing, the available supply of college-educated workers...the state faces a looming shortage of skilled, college-educated workers. If the state is to meet this challenge, it will need to maintain its historic investment in publicly supported higher education, not curtail it for short-term gain."

Among the many conclusions reached in the report are the following:

- Investments in publicly supported higher education pay for themselves
- The impact of CSU campuses on local economies is \$4.41 for every \$1 spent
- Tax revenues increase with more college-educated people
- More college-educated people means fewer people on public assistance

To view the report, go to: <http://calfac.org/csureport.html>

- GOV. RESPONDS TO CFA REPORT

CFA's outspoken opposition to proposed cuts to the CSU gets louder by the day and decision-makers in Sacramento have begun to notice.

Last Wednesday, amid the sea of budget protests by interest groups flooding the state, the governor's press secretary Aaron McLear responded to an item on the Sacramento Bee's online Capitol Alert about CFA's new report on the CSU's impact on the state economy.

Attempting to refute the facts about the dismal funding level for the CSU, McLear told the Bee that higher education funding has increased by billions since Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger came into office.

CFA countered by reminding reporters that although the governor has made small increases to the CSU budget over the last few years, when adjusting for inflation, the system's budget in 2006-07 was still more than \$300 million less than in 2001-02.

And, during that time the CSU added over 44,000 students (an 11% increase).

Bottom line: the CSU has been persistently under-funded during this governor's time in office. It has been whittled down, and as the report shows, these cuts are doing severe damage to California's economy.

To view the exchange, go to:

<http://data.sacbee.com/capalert/login.html?prv=http%3A//www.sacbee.com/static/weblogs/capitolalertlatest/012237.html>

ALLIANCE FOR THE CSU

- CALL/FAX DAYS HAVE IMPACT; GOV. TURNS OFF HIS PHONE

Faculty members, staff, students and administrators across the state continue to keep the governor's phone ringing and his fax machine buzzing to make it clear that the CSU is the solution. Budget cuts to the system will only worsen the state's economic situation.

As of Friday, the Alliance for the CSU counted 1000 calls, 8500 faxes and 700 letters to the governor to say cuts to the CSU will not be tolerated. Meantime, student groups on some campuses were running their own call and fax events, many people took sample faxes for friends and colleagues, and an email request for calls and faxes went to the more than 12,000 people who signed up for the Alliance at campus meetings in March and April.

The volume of calls and faxes was so high that some of the governor's district offices stopped taking calls and turned off their fax machines.

The number of contacts with the governor is expected to rise significantly this week when more campuses hold their "Gov: Can You Hear Us Now?" events.

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

The Alliance for the CSU will conclude its wildly successful "Gov: Can You Hear Us Now?" call and fax day campaign this Thursday, with four outdoor phone banks for faculty members, students, staff and administrators to call or fax the governor with one simple message: The CSU is the solution to California's troubled economy; restore the funding!

Make your call at:

--San Diego State: Wed, May 7, 10 am to 2 pm, Centennial Walkway by Aztec Center

--CSU Chico: Thu, May 8, 10 am-3pm, Kendall Lawn

--CSU Northridge: Thu, May 8, 10 am to 2 pm, Bahramian Hall Lawn

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

--Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Thu May 8, 10:50 am to 1 pm, University Union (UU) Plaza

Call/fax days have already been held San Bernardino, Sonoma, Bakersfield, Dominguez Hills, Pomona, San Marcos, Fresno State, Fullerton, Long Beach, Monterey Bay, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Stanislaus, Humboldt, San Jose and East Bay.

- JOIN & HELP THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CSU

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

Also on the Alliance for the CSU website, view the “10 ways you can help” the CSU.

This week’s suggestion: Tell a group!

By asking campus or community organizations 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 others asking them to join the Alliance, go to:
http://www.alliancefortheesu.org/tell_friend.php

THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- FACULTY REACH OUT TO LAWMAKERS DURING LOBBY DAY

This year’s CFA Lobby Day at the State Capitol was one of the most successful yet, as more than 100 faculty members and students made it clear to elected leaders that the CSU is the solution to California’s economic struggles.

The event kicked off Tuesday evening with a rousing speech from Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, who said the time has come to "invest in the intellectual infrastructure" of California.

He fired up the crowd by asking, "Are we going to invest in our own future or are we going to turn our backs on the long history of the state of California?"

The following day, before the group descended upon the State Capitol for individual lobbying appointments with legislators, Assemblymember John Laird, referring to the tough battle over education funding, quipped, "I feel like the cavalry has arrived."

At noon the group convened for a news conference to announce the release of a report that analyzes the long-term economic and fiscal impact of the governor's proposed cuts to the CSU.

The news conference featured Assembly Higher Education Committee Chair Anthony Portantino, who reiterated that budget cuts to higher education are a short-term fix to a long-term problem and would only worsen California's economic struggles.

- CFA PRESIDENT TESTIFIES ABOUT BUDGET

CFA President Lillian Taiz testified before the Assembly Budget Committee's sub-committee on education Tuesday about the need to fully fund higher education in the state's 2008/09 budget.

Taiz told the Committee, "In addition to denying access, for students admitted to the CSU these proposed cuts would mean, among other things, ballooning class sizes, far fewer course offerings, the sixth fee increase in seven years, and, inevitably, much longer times to graduation."

Taiz continued, "Our faculty members and students understand the impact of cuts first hand. But the fact is, as a recent study demonstrates, cuts to the CSU also have a much broader effect. The students are not the only ones being hurt; the cuts will have a negative impact on the state of California as well."

- LEGISLATORS VOW TO PROTECT HIGHER EDUCATION

At the students' march a few weeks ago, some Democratic leaders drawn to the crowd at the State Capitol, according to the San Jose Mercury News, "vowed to halt \$1 billion in proposed higher education cuts, setting the stage for a lengthy deadlock over how to solve a massive deadlock in the state budget."

Two of the many elected officials to make this "vow" according to the newspaper were State Senate Pro Tem Don Perata and Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez.

Of course, although they take such a vow now, it's possible that neither of them will be around the legislature when the budget actually gets decided, this summer or even later, because both are termed out of office. Perata's replacement, Darrell Steinberg, becomes pro tem on August 21 and Karen Bass replaces Núñez as Speaker today, May 13.

The holders of these positions are very important individuals who are part of state government's so-called "Big Five," along with the Senate and Assembly Republican leaders and the governor. The Big Five hammers out the final state budget deal in the final days of the process.

- AT LEAST HIGHER ED IS POPULAR

Even President Bush has gotten on the higher ed bandwagon.

In his weekly radio address a few Saturdays ago, in comments about the growing difficulty getting student loans from private lenders, Pres. Bush opined, "A slowdown in the economy shouldn't mean a downturn in educational opportunities."

Exactly. Hopefully, California's governor was listening.

You can hear it at: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,352717,00.html>

- CFA DISCUSSES BUDGET WITH SUNY LEADERS

Like the CSU, the State University of New York faces budget cuts that would undermine student access to a quality higher education. United University Professions, which represents 34,000 academic and professional faculty at SUNY's 29 state-operated campuses, invited CFA President Lillian Taiz to speak at a May 2 rally in Albany and to address UUP delegates.

At the rally at the New York State Capitol building, Taiz brought a message of solidarity from the CSU faculty, pointing out that in both New York and California public universities are a major source of prosperity, producing the educated workforce that is crucial to a thriving economy.

Taiz reminded the large crowd and media that the people of New York, like the people of California, must ask themselves what kind of states we want to be as the 21st century proceeds. She concluded by asking, "Are we states that hamstringing our children by taking away the key to their prosperity and that of our state? Or will we invest in them and in our own future?"

Later in the day, Taiz made a presentation to the UUP delegates on CFA's organizing model, the lessons learned in our successful bargaining campaign,

and the continuing work to protect higher education as part of the Alliance for the CSU.

Finally, Taiz and Elizabeth Hoffman, CFA Associate Vice President-Lecturers, met with a coalition of SUNY tenure-line and contingent faculty to discuss the increasing reliance in higher ed on temporary faculty and to share CFA's progress in building a more democratic and inclusive union.

Dr. Phil Smith, President of UUP, stressed the importance of continued solidarity and engagement between the two largest unions in higher education.

OTHER NEWS

- REGISTER TO VOTE IN JUNE ELECTION

The last day to register to vote in the June 3 statewide election is May 19.

If you are not registered to vote or have recently moved, please register (or re-register) to vote by going to: http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm

By registering to vote you can help make your voice heard in the political process and at the same time increase CFA's strength to influence elected decision makers.

- GOV. SIGNS RETIREE VISION CARE BILL

On Monday Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Senate Bill 235 into law, allowing California State University (CSU) retirees to participate in a new vision care program.

The bill will allow 20,000 CSU retirees to participate in a new self-funded comprehensive vision care program.

The bill – which was authored by Sen. Gloria Negrete McLeod – corrects a previous inequity where although active CSU employees have access to the Vision Services Plan (VSP), the coverage did not extend into retirement.

To learn more, go to: <http://www.calfac.org/retirees.html>

- NEW LOYALTY OATH FLAP

For the second time in less than a year, a CSU instructor has been dismissed for refusing to sign a loyalty oath.

Wendy Gonaver was hired in the winter to teach American Studies at CSU Fullerton, but was fired before the start of spring classes because she would not sign an oath swearing to “defend” the U.S. and California constitutions “against all enemies, foreign and domestic.”

Earlier this year, a CSU East Bay instructor – who was not part of CFA’s bargaining unit because of her status as a grad student – was fired for inserting the word “non-violently” into the oath. She was later reinstated.

To view the LA Times story, go to: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-oath2-2008may02,0,6280956.story?page=1>

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7

“Gov: Can you hear us now?” Call/Fax days at San Diego State: 10 am to 2 pm, Centennial Walkway by Aztec Center

May 8

“Gov: Can you hear us now?” Call/Fax days at CSU Chico: 10am-3pm, Kendall Lawn

“Gov: Can you hear us now?” Call/Fax days at CSU Northridge: 10 am to 2 pm, Bahramian Hall Lawn

“Gov: Can you hear us now?” Call/Fax days at San Francisco State: 9 am to 5 pm, First Floor Lobby, Cesar Chavez Student Center,

“Gov: Can you hear us now?” Call/Fax days at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, 10:50 am to 1 pm, University Union (UU) Plaza

May 13 & 14

CSU Board of Trustees Meeting
401 Golden Shore, Long Beach

May 19

Last day to register to vote for June election
Register now at: http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm

May 26

Memorial Day
CFA Offices closed

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