

From the California Faculty Association
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CFA HEADLINES

October 7, 2008 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

· CASH CRUNCH COULD REOPEN BUDGET TALKS

Just two weeks after lawmakers reached consensus on a state spending plan for the 2008/09 fiscal year, the nation's financial turmoil may force the governor to reopen budget talks.

Because of the downturn in the economy, tax revenues in the state are trickling in at a pace well below the level anticipated when lawmakers crafted the budget last month, a spokesperson Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger told the Sacramento Bee.

Published reports Monday indicated that Legislative leaders and the governor will meet Wednesday to discuss options for dealing with the state's worsening financial picture. If a solution cannot be reached, the Governor may call a special legislative session to deal with the crisis.

If a special session is called, all options for balancing the budget would be back on the table including another round of spending cuts, accounting maneuvers, or tax increases.

- WHAT THE BUDGET MEANS TO THE FACULTY CONTRACT

Under any budget scenario in which the CSU does not receive full “Compact” funding, there will be many loose ends to address, not the least of which is the faculty contract.

Last month CFA President Lillian Taiz, a professor of history at Cal State L.A., told the CSU Board of Trustees, “We hope the administration will not want our collective energies sucked into another protracted bargaining fight at a time when our energy is better spent on cooperative activities like the Alliance.”

What happens next could go a couple of different ways. The CSU administration has the option to not reopen bargaining and simply pay the raises agreed upon in the contract. Or the administration could reopen bargaining on salaries since the state legislature did not provide the minimum funding defined in the governor’s “Higher Education Compact.”

The raises in the faculty contract are dependent on funding from the Legislature because of Government Code 3572(b), which makes every “cost item” in the collective bargaining agreement – such as raises – dependent on receiving sufficient funding from the Legislature. The same law provides that if sufficient funding is not received, the item shall be “referred back to the parties for further meeting and conferring.”

Today (October 7), CFA sent a letter to the CSU administration requesting a copy of the technical letter authorizing the faculty raises. At *CFA Headlines* “press” time, CFA had not been formally notified how the CSU administration will respond; the union remains ready for either eventuality.

“While there are always uncertainties and unpredictable developments in any negotiations, we have begun the process of developing a smart and tough campaign for much-needed and hard-fought raises for the faculty,” said CFA President Taiz.

To learn more about what is going on with the faculty contract, view the question and answer piece at: http://www.calfac.org/allpdf/bargaining/Q&A_100808.pdf

Please watch *CFA Headlines* for the latest developments on this issue.

- HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRICKLE-UP ECONOMICS

Amid the mass quantity of convoluted diatribe over the nation's financial crisis, an article by UC Berkeley professor Robert Reich stands out - not only for its clarity, but also for its support for something that we already know: that higher education is part of the solution to the turmoil.

In a short article in *the San Francisco Chronicle*, Reich lays out the problem, acknowledges the need for short-term fixes, explains the "coping mechanisms" that no longer work, and offers an alternative to trickle-down economics.

He writes:

"The long-term answer is for America to invest in the productivity of our working people — enabling families to afford health insurance and have access to good schools and higher education, while also rebuilding our infrastructure and investing in clean-energy technologies of the future. We must also adopt progressive taxes at the federal, state and local levels. Call it bottom-up economics."

See the full article at

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/10/05/INTM139L8L.DTL>

NOV. 4 ELECTION

- CFA LAUNCHES STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORT

With Election Day just a month away, the California Faculty Association has launched a campaign to register California college students to vote and to encourage civic activism among young people.

"There is nothing more American than exercising one's right to vote and many Americans cast their first vote as college students," said CFA Vice President Kim Gerón, a professor of Political Science at CSU East Bay and Chair of CFA's Tim Sampson Memorial Student Internship Program.

Gerón continued, "In today's digital era of MySpace, Facebook, and the many other social networks and websites, there is tremendous opportunity to register millions of new voters. College students represent a growing portion of the electorate and have the potential to make a big impact and this is simply an effort to jump-start the registration process."

The last day to register to vote in the presidential election is Oct. 20 in California, and even sooner in many other states. In order to optimize turnout among students, CFA is encouraging students to take advantage of the numerous forms of new technology that allow young people to share information quickly about this

important topic. See a news release on this drive at <http://www.calfac.org/releases.html>

WATCH THE YOUTUBE “5 FRIENDS” VIDEO

In one of the political season’s most effective viral marketing campaigns thus far, a video released last week – and already climbing into the top 5 most watched videos on youtube.com – features a number of Hollywood stars are encouraging young people to sign up to vote.

To view the video, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhDRVKDcXQo>

The video features Jennifer Aniston, Jamie Foxx, Usher, Halle Berry, Sarah Silverman and others in a sarcastic comedic message about the importance of registering to vote. The spot does not single out a candidate but features the stars urging people repeatedly to register and vote (and encourage five friends or more to do the same). The spot goes on to urge people both registered and unregistered to spread the message of the upcoming voter registration deadlines.

CFA encourages faculty and students alike to forward the video and the other voter registration tools listed below to their friends, colleagues and students.

Other Online Voter Resources

Facebook partnered up with Rock the Vote to offer its users the opportunity to register directly from the popular social networking site. Go to: <http://apps.facebook.com/registernow/>

MySpace is doing its part to get people registered to vote by partnering with the Declare Yourself campaign. If you reside in a state that allows online voter registration, you can fill in everything from this web site, or they will show you where you can request a voter registration card from your state. Go to: <http://www.myspace.com/declareyourself>

Focused on the absentee voter, **Long Distance Voter** has partnered with **Rock the Vote** to help those folks who are away from home register to vote. Go to: <http://www.longdistancevoter.org/>

A site run by the **League of Women Voters, Vote411** educates voters about what is on their ballot, voting rules in their state, finding one’s polling place and also getting people registered to vote. Go to: <http://www.vote411.org/home.php>

Google has teamed up with the **League of Women Voters** to help the public get information on where you to go get registered. Simply enter your address to learn where the closest office is to you. Go to: <http://maps.google.com/vote>

Users of **Microsoft's Xbox Live** service can register to vote via their gaming consoles. Go to: <http://www.xbox.com/hi-IN/>

- VIEW CFA ENDORSEMENTS ONLINE

CFA has endorsed a number of candidates running for Assembly and Senate seats this fall.

To see the list of CFA endorsed candidates, go to:
<http://www.calfac.org/endorsements.html>

CFA's endorsement process involves CFA members at the chapter level interviewing and evaluating candidates on a range of issues: candidate views on collective bargaining in general and collective bargaining rights for the faculty; funding for the CSU and public accountability regarding use of the funds; and commitment to student and faculty diversity. Candidates are then endorsed based on their stands on these and other local issues.

- THE BALLOT MEASURES: PROP 6

On Election Day California voters will be asked to make tough choices on a dozen statewide ballot measures.

CFA has taken positions on four of these measures and will highlight one measure a week between now and the election. To view CFA's positions on these selected ballot measures, go to: <http://www.calfac.org/ballot.html>

According to the ballot description, Proposition 6 seeks to increase penalties for several crimes, combat crime and gangs, and operate prison and parole systems. The measure also would eliminate bail for illegal immigrants charged with violent or gang-related felonies, and change evidence rules to allow use of certain hearsay statements as evidence when witnesses are unavailable.

If the measure were to pass, the cost to the state would likely exceed a half-billion dollars annually for increased funding of criminal justice programs, as well as for increased costs for prison and parole operations. The measure would also demand untold millions to pay for more prison facilities, state trial courts, county jails, and other local criminal justice agencies.

"It simply makes no sense to enact a measure that could cost up to \$500 million a year without any revenue source to pay for it," said John Travis, Chair of CFA's Committee on Political Action and Legislation. "The likely result of this measure would be increased cuts to the CSU, health and human service programs, public safety and other vital state programs."

Other organizations opposing the measure include: SEIU California State Council, the California Labor Federation, California Democratic Party, California Teachers Association and others.

CFA urges a **NO** vote on Proposition 6.

To learn more, go to: <http://www.votenoprop6.com/>

- REGISTER TO VOTE BY OCTOBER 20

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 4 presidential election is Oct. 20, so if you are not registered to vote, please sign up today.

You can get forms to register to vote at any post office or DMV or from the CFA campus office or Associated Students group on most campuses. You may also request a voter registration form online at:

http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm

If you or your students are residents of a state other than California, you can find registration deadlines and links to other state election offices at this website:

<http://www.newvotersproject.org/home>

- LONG BEACH CFA CHAPTER IN ACTION

The CFA Chapter at CSU Long Beach reports:

"We collected 247 Alliance cards and 120 voter registration forms last week at three days of tabling, including tabling in conjunction with a campus-wide Peace Forum. The Peace Forum, sponsored by the campus Center for Peace and Social Justice, featured speakers Ann Wright, retired US Army colonel, and Stephen Zunes, an international relations scholar from the University of San Francisco. Another speaker was Long Beach CFA Chapter President Teri Yamada, who discussed the impact on students of diminished resources for higher education."

OTHER NEWS

- SEND A LETTER TO HELP PROTECT UC LABOR CENTERS

Last month Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed all funding for the University of California's Miguel Contreras Labor Program and now this important institution needs your help.

Schwarzenegger and California Republican legislators have long targeted the program for elimination, even though it has provided California policy makers with valuable research about the economic and workforce impacts of proposed California policies, such as health care reform and climate change legislation.

CFA urges union members to join in the fight to get the program back into the Governor's January budget. Please take a minute right now to send a letter to the Governor demanding that the Miguel Contreras Labor Program be included in next year's budget.

To learn more and send your letter today, go to:
<http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/saveUClabor>

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 13, Mon

Columbus Day
CFA offices closed

October 17, Fri

CFA Board of Directors
Los Angeles

October 18-19, Sat-Sun

69th CFA Assembly
Los Angeles

October 20, Mon

Last day to register to vote in general election
To register, go to: http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm

November 4, Tues

Election Day

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If you receive these headlines as a forwarded message from someone other than the calfac-I email list and do not want to receive it, please contact the person who forwarded it to you.

If you receive these headlines as a forwarded message and wish to begin receiving them weekly directly from calfac-I go to <http://lists.calfac.net/listinfo.cgi/calfac-I-calfac.net> to sign up.

*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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