

From the California Faculty Association
cfa@calfac.org or <http://www.calfac.org>

CFA HEADLINES

January 27, 2009 · Weekly news digest from CFA

BARGAINING

- CFA sends formal notice to submit economic articles to arbitration

THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- State could run out of money as soon as Sunday
- Trustees to take up budget, other matters
- Send in yours Cuts Have Consequences stories, videos
- Listen to audio of Higher Ed at the Edge media conference

OTHER NEWS

- CFA councils meet

* * *

BARGAINING

- CFA SENDS FORMAL NOTICE TO SUBMIT ECONOMIC ARTICLES TO ARBITRATION

At the recommendation of the CFA Bargaining Team, CFA's Board of Directors has formally called on the Chancellor's Office to enter into binding arbitration with the union to resolve the economic portions of the faculty contract that were reopened due to the state budget crisis.

By pursuing binding arbitration, CFA seeks a swift and fair resolution of the dispute by an impartial third party that would circumvent potential labor strife during a time when the system needs all of its stakeholders on the same page.

In a letter sent to the Chancellor's Chief negotiator, Bill Candella, CFA Director of Representation Bernhard Rohrbacher, explaining why arbitration is the best option, wrote:

"CFA believes that against the background of an ever-worsening economic crisis in the state and in the nation, it would be a mistake to choose a process for settlement of this dispute that would lead inevitably toward labor strife and turmoil in the university....

“Referral of the matter to a neutral arbitrator will ensure that this dispute will be settled by reason, not by force. To us, that seems fair and just.”

THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- STATE COULD RUN OUT OF MONEY BY SUNDAY

Having run out of the accounting gimmicks and parlor tricks that have kept the state afloat for the past several months, California will officially run out of money on Sunday if legislators and the governor cannot reach a budget deal.

State Controller John Chiang – the man charged with dealing with the state’s day-to-day cash flow problems – said last week that if a spending plan is not adopted this week, he will be forced to cut off all payments except those constitutionally required. Groups protected by that statute include schools, colleges and bondholders.

“At some point someone must take responsibility for getting a deal done,” said CFA President Lillian Taiz. “This governor has utterly failed our higher education system and moreover our state by not passing a budget.”

Some of the people and programs that won’t get paid in February until a budget is enacted include:

- People who file their state income tax returns and are owed refunds.
- College students who are part of the Cal Grant program. For more info see: http://calfac.org/allpdf/newsreleas/2009_pressrel/PR_012709_factsheetV7.pdf
- Counties who run public assistance programs.
- State programs that provide services for mental health, alcohol and drug rehab, and the developmentally disabled.
- Trial courts.
- Vendors who sell goods or services to the state.

- TRUSTEES TO TAKE UP BUDGET, OTHER MATTERS

The CSU Trustees will convene in Long Beach this week for their bimonthly board meeting.

At this week's meeting, the Trustees are expected to talk extensively about the state budget and its many far-reaching implications – including possible midyear budget cuts, student fee hikes, halted construction projects and more.

CFA leaders will be on hand for the meeting and will address the Chancellor on the Alliance for the CSU and about how his actions at the bargaining table threaten the viability of the Alliance.

Students are expected to address the Trustees about the class cuts, lecturer layoffs, and financial aid snafus that are creating havoc on the campuses as the remaining campuses reopen this week for spring semester.

The meeting is held at the Chancellor's Headquarters, overlooking the Queen Mary, at 401 Golden Shore in Long Beach.

To view the full agenda and schedule of meetings, go to:
<http://www.calstate.edu/fyi>

- SEND IN YOUR CUTS HAVE CONSEQUENCES STORIES, VIDEOS

As campuses gear up for spring term, CFA is spreading the word online about the disastrous impact of budget cuts to the CSU system.

CFA continues to call for content for the ongoing "Cuts Have Consequences" online vigil, which can be seen at:
<http://www.youtube.com/cutshaveconsequences>

Join in by sharing your videos and stories about how "Cuts Have Consequences" to you, your students, your friends or your university.

You can get involved by either submitting a message in the "comments portion" of the youtube.com page or adding a video of your own.

If you don't have a camera, contact your local CFA field staff representative, who is equipped with a portable video camera to capture your stories and testimonials.

Find your field staff representative at: <http://calfac.org/staff.html>

- LISTEN TO "HIGHER ED AT THE EDGE" NEWS CONFERENCE

Earlier this month, CFA unveiled a new report examining how California's economy and public higher education system are teetering at the edge of disaster.

The report was released to the public in a news conference at CSU Los Angeles, where CFA President Lillian Taiz and report author Tom Mortenson spoke with the media about the impact of budget cuts.

An audio recording of that media conference, along with a download of the report, are now available to online at: <http://calfac.org/CalAtTheEdge.html>

OTHER NEWS

- JOINT COUNCILS MEET

Last weekend, the CFA Lecturers Council, Council for Affirmative Action (CAA) and its affiliated caucuses met in Sacramento to chart a course for the spring term.

Much of the agenda for the meetings centered on building capacity in the individual caucuses and councils in order to strengthen CFA's position in the ongoing budget and contract fights.

At the meeting, the CAA and Lecturers Council also heard reports and assigned ongoing work in the four areas of focus adopted at Fall Assembly: bargaining, representation, political action and community relationship building.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 27-28

CSU Board of Trustees meeting, 401 Golden Shore, Long Beach

Feb 6-7

CFA Board of Directors meeting, Los Angeles

Feb 16

Presidents' Day holiday, CFA offices closed

* * *

If you receive these headlines directly from the calfac-l e-mail list and wish to unsubscribe, please go to <http://lists.calfac.net/listinfo.cgi/calfac-l-calfac.net>.

If you receive these headlines as a forwarded message from someone other than the calfac-l 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-l go to <http://lists.calfac.net/listinfo.cgi/calfac-l-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>*

— End —