

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

CFA HEADLINES

March 17, 2009 · Weekly news digest from CFA

BARGAINING

- Mediation process begins
- View the new Q&A on bargaining

THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- Thousands of emails, rally precede “trigger funding” hearing
- Students protest budget cuts at the Capitol
- Northridge, San Francisco hold budget rallies

CFA GOES TO WASHINGTON

- Faculty to visit nation’s Capitol; follow the trip on Twitter

OTHER NEWS

- View VLOG on CFA’s District Lobby Days
- CFA Board resolution on Middle East violence

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BARGAINING

- STATE-APPOINTED MEDIATOR NAMED

A mediation session between CFA and the CSU Administration has been scheduled for April 13.

The Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) assigned mediator Tony Butka will seek ways to end the impasse in contract talks between CFA and the CSU Administration on the economic portions of the 2008/09 faculty contract that were reopened due to the state budget crisis.

Under state higher education public employment law, mediation is a required step following certification of an impasse.

- READ THE UPDATED BARGAINING FAQ

To learn more about the current status of bargaining, please view the document. An updated version is available at:
http://calfac.org/allpdf/bargaining/QA_reopener_Update_031709.pdf

THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

- RALLY PRECEDES MEETING ON “TRIGGER” FUNDING

With the CSU on the verge of being slashed a third time this school year, faculty members and others opposing state budget cuts gathered on the steps of the state Capitol early Tuesday morning.

They rallied to urge an accurate accounting of federal stimulus dollars so that the state's public universities and essential social programs will retain the 2009/10 funding promised in the state budget adopted by the legislature last month.

Buried in the complexities of that budget deal is a “trigger” to release funding that will otherwise be cut if the federal money coming to California via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) falls below a pre-determined level. There is more than one way to count that money, so the CSU is at the mercy of arcane accounting issues that are now hotly debated.

Speaking to the assembled crowd, CFA President Lillian Taiz said, “It is impossible to believe that the men and women in Washington who voted for the federal stimulus package intended for California's leadership to turn around and use it as an excuse to cut some of the most vulnerable people and important programs in the state.”

The state legislature has ordered Treasurer Bill Lockyer and Dept. of Finance Director Mike Genest to decide by April 1 whether California will get enough money from the federal government to stop the new cuts.

At stake is \$50 million for the California State University and more than \$900 million in other cuts to essential social services.

Last week, CFA asked faculty members and other university supporters to send messages to Lockyer urging him to count the federal stimulus money in a way that will prevent further cuts to the CSU. More than 1,500 faculty members, staff and students have sent a message to him.

Alliance for the CSU members at Long Beach showed their ingenuity by creating a video asking the campus community to send messages to Lockyer. Their video can be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7I41Sm8tLw>

- STUDENTS PROTEST BUDGET CUTS AT THE CAPITOL

On Monday, students from all three segments of higher education in California joined forces to rally against budget cuts.

During Monday's event, nearly 1000 students marched from Raley Field in West Sacramento to the Capitol steps beating drums, carrying signs and chanting "We are the students, the mighty, mighty students."

The purpose of the rally was to remind Californians of the importance of maintaining the state's investment in higher education.

- NORTHRIDGE, SAN FRANCISCO HOLD BUDGET RALLIES

While the State Capitol remains a hot spot for protests and marches, two CSU campuses also got into the act last week with budget rallies of their own.

On Wednesday, educators and students from San Francisco State and throughout the Bay Area staged a rally at City Hall to advocate for better funding for all segments of California's public schools.

On Thursday, CSU Northridge students marched on the school's administration building to urge their local campus leaders to take a stand against additional cuts to the CSU.

CFA GOES TO WASHINGTON

- FACULTY HEAD TO NATION'S CAPITOL

Faculty leaders will head to Washington D.C. next week to meet with members of Congress and other national opinion leaders to advocate for public higher education funding.

In order to keep members and interested observers informed, CFA has launched a twitter.com page to chronicle the trip at: www.twitter.com/CFainDC

To learn the latest about CFA in D.C., check back regularly or sign up for a twitter account of your own and become a "follower" of CFainDC.

OTHER NEWS

- VIEW CFA VIDEO BLOG ON DISTRICT LOBBY DAYS

The next installment in CFA's new series of video blogs (vlogs) is now available to view online.

This week, CFA President Lillian Taiz and the lobbying team from Sonoma State discuss their recent CFA Lobby Day visit with Assemblymember Noreen Evans.

To view the vlog, go to: www.calfac.org/vlog.html

- CFA BOARD PASSES RESOLUTION OPPOSING MIDDLE EAST VIOLENCE

Last month, CFA's Board of Directors adopted a resolution submitted by the CFA Peace & Justice Committee calling for a halt to violence in the Middle East.

To learn more about the Peace and Justice Committee and view the resolution, go to: <http://www.calfac.org/peace.html>

LINKS OF THE WEEK

Associate Vice President Lecturers, Elizabeth Hoffman in *Times Higher Education* (UK) article on contingent faculty:

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=405670&encCode=725860976BC80249875JTBS737226611>

View the CFA video blog webpage:

www.calfac.org/vlog.html

Rebuild California's economy with the Employee Free Choice Act:

<http://freechoice.seiu.org/page/s/recoveryinca?source=adwords&gclid=CMj4rd6RhZkCFRwwawodrwbDnA>

Join SEIU demonstrations at the offices of major banks to demand more responsible corporate behavior:

<http://takebacktheeconomy.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 19

CSU Long Beach Budget Summit

Contact chapter for more details:

Phone (562) 985-5165

E-mail cfa@csulb.edu

March 24-25

CSU Board of Trustees meeting

Meet at 401 Golden Shore, Long Beach

To view the agenda, go to: <http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/>

March 23-26

CFA goes to Washington DC

Follow the trip on Twitter: www.twitter.com/CFAinDC

March 31

César Chávez Holiday

CFA Statewide offices closed

April 3

CFA Board of Directors meeting

Sacramento

April 4-5

70th CFA General Assembly

Sacramento

April 28-29

CFA Capitol Lobby Days

May 19

Special Election

Register to vote now at: http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm

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