

FROM: THE CALIFORNIA FACULTY ASSOCIATION  
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## **CFA HEADLINES**

May 15, 2009 - **SPECIAL EDITION FROM CFA**

### **FALSE CLAIMS MADE ABOUT PROP 1A IN THE CSU CHANCELLOR'S MAY 15 BUDGET UPDATE**

**The state budget situation is grave, but Prop 1A will have no impact on it and will only make the CSU budget worse in the future**

#### **CFA calls on the CSU community to VOTE NO on Prop 1A**

The CSU Chancellor sent a message today (Friday, May 15) to the CSU community about the severe and immediate funding crisis we face.

In his message, he asks all those who care about the CSU to work together to fight the cuts that will hit the CSU in the next budget year, regardless of the outcome of the special election next week.

CFA could not agree more. We must find new and better ways to fund California's public higher education system.

However, the chancellor continues to make false claims about the impact the May 19 ballot initiatives would have on CSU funding shortfalls.

It is NOT TRUE, as the chancellor writes, that some \$6 billion in revenue for the 2009-10 state budget depends on the passage of Propositions 1A through 1E.

This is simply false.

If Proposition 1A fails and Proposition 1B fails, that will have NO IMPACT ON THE STATE BUDGET during 2009-2010.

This is not an interpretation. This is a fact. Proposition 1A could reduce state revenues two years from now because, unless it passes, temporary tax increases will sunset — but not for two years!

Proposition 1B has to do with money over and above Prop 98 limits for K-12 education starting a few years from now.

The possible \$6 billion shortfall to which Reed refers could happen only if Propositions 1C through 1E fail. These three propositions would provide more revenue to the state by borrowing from the state lottery, and by taking funds from services for the mentally ill and from health care for pre-K children.

CFA urges you to vote your conscience on Propositions 1B through 1E.

The main message CFA hopes you will take from this is that Proposition 1A is NOT about revenue for this year.

CFA opposes Proposition 1A and urges you to VOTE NO on 1A.

We believe there are many serious problems with Prop 1A.

- It will lock the CSU into limited funding long-term, based on our worst budget year, regardless of future need or increases in the number of eligible students.
- It is a convoluted mess of vague language and formulas that would be written into the state constitution.
- It is a false rainy day fund; it is really a cap on spending for public services regardless of Californians' needs.
- It gives the governor extraordinary new powers to cut the budget as he wishes, without limits.

We must not allow the budget crisis to be an excuse to slip into the state constitution an agenda aimed at cutting back college opportunity. We must seek better solutions.

In that spirit, we call on Chancellor Reed to brief the CSU Trustees immediately on Assembly Bill 656 authored by State Assembly member Alberto Torrico, to establish a dedicated funding source for the CSU that would not take funding away from the sick or the education of students at other grade levels.

AB 656 was presented to the CSU Trustees at their March 24 meeting by CFA's political director and again by CFA VP Kim Geron at their May 13 meeting last week.

CSU Trustee Lt. Gov. John Garamendi introduced a resolution for the Trustees to support AB 656 at that May 13 meeting. Yet the Trustees tabled it, indicating they remain unfamiliar with it and were reluctant to take action, despite the prospects of a tremendous boon to the CSU.

Chancellor Reed can correct this, and he should. He should bring the full support of the California State University's executives and Trustees behind AB 656.

We should all be working on it together.

Despite the false claims and misinformed scare tactics in the Chancellor's email earlier today, CFA stands ready to work with the administration to fight for the passage of AB 656 for adequate funding for the CSU system.

We agree that further budget cuts for the CSU and higher education are bad for the economy, bad for California, and bad for the country.

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