

From the California Faculty Association
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CFA HEADLINES

February 2, 2010 - Weekly news digest from CFA

IN FOCUS

- Campuses prepare for March 4 day of action

FREE THE \$50 MILLION

- Send the Chancellor a message today to “Free the \$50 Million”

RESTRUCTURING

- Daily Breeze editorializes against Chancellor’s grad initiative
- Faculty address Trustees on restructuring, remediation
- New initiative will severely limit GE
- Restructuring ongoing; read the CFA White Paper

OTHER NEWS

- SB 330 moves forward in legislature
- Join labor’s efforts to help Haiti

LINKS OF THE WEEK

UPCOMING EVENTS

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ON CAMPUS

- CAMPUSES PREPARE FOR MARCH 4 DAY OF ACTION

Faculty and students throughout the CSU continue to prepare for the March 4th day of statewide action for public education.

March 4th will be a unified effort of education supporters from all segments of public education in California where participants will hold rallies, demonstrations, sit-ins, and other types of events on every CSU campus and at other locations across the state. The goal will be to raise awareness about the need for proper funding for public education.

So far events have been planned for the following campuses, with further events and details to be added in the coming weeks:

CSU Long Beach – Walkout, march and parade for public education – Noon walkout to the quad, followed by a 1 pm parade.

San Francisco State/CSU East Bay – Rally for California’s Future, San Francisco Civic Center, 4:30 pm

San Jose State – March-In for Higher Ed – “Keep the Doors Open” – Noon-2 pm, begins at San Jose City Hall and will march to Tower Lawn near 7th street entrance to campus.

FREE THE 50 MILLION

- SEND THE CHANCELLOR A MESSAGE TODAY TO “FREE THE \$50 MILLION”

While students and faculty continue to struggle with budget cuts, furloughs and fee hikes, CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed is sitting on \$50 million in unused federal stimulus money.

CFA calls on Chancellor Reed to release this funding to campuses to help students and protect jobs.

Send him a message today urging him to free \$50 million by going to:

<http://capwiz.com/calpac/state/main/?state=CA>

You can also fight to “Free the \$50 million” on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chancellor-Reed-Free-the-50-Million/309446548668>

For background on the Chancellor’s unused \$50 million, see:

http://calpac.org/allpdf/headlines/2010/headlines_020110sp.pdf

RESTRUCTURING

- DAILY BREEZE EDITORIALIZES AGAINST CHANCELLOR’S GRAD INITIATIVE

On Monday the Daily Breeze newspaper – which serves Torrance and South Bay Communities in Los Angeles – published a scathing editorial criticizing the CSU administration for their poorly thought-out graduation initiative. The initiative involves, among many measures, reducing the number of general education units a CSU student would need to get a degree.

The editorial states, “The plan to reduce the amount of educational background needed to earn a degree won’t do any students a favor — let alone help under-represented students get a leg up in a cutthroat job market flooded by students from other public and private universities who do have that background. Instead, it would institutionalize another disadvantage, paradoxically handing them a degree by depriving them of knowledge.

“Comparing these requirement changes to losing an entire year of high school might be over the top. However, it's commensurate with the concern we should have about making a strategy that has failed time and again in business and government part of our educational system: Boosting a bottom line by cutting corners.”

To read the editorial, go to:

http://calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper_articles/2010/DailyBreeze_013109_editorial.pdf

What the paper didn't know when using the 12th grade metaphor is that the Chancellor has already stated that he is in favor eliminating the 12th grade!

Reed told a panel of education leaders in November that he is in favor of eliminating 12th grade because it is, “the biggest waste of time for many students.”

To read the article outlining Reed's ideas about eliminating 12th grade, go to:

http://calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper_articles/2009/CHE_110509_Reed.pdf

What's worse, the Chancellor paid high-priced consultants to help him come up with both of these bad ideas.

The three-year high school plan is the brainchild of University of Pennsylvania professor Robert Zemsky and his colleagues at Learning Alliance for Higher Education, to whom the CSU paid \$25,000 to share their restructuring ideas.

The so-called “graduation initiative” is the creation of another high-priced CSU consultant, Sir Michael Barber, whose theories have been used in England and in the New Orleans public schools.

- FACULTY ADDRESS TRUSTEES ON RESTRUCTURING, ACCESS

Last Wednesday, faculty members and students -traveled to Long Beach to address the CSU Board of Trustees on several important educational policy issues, including the proposed 'Early Start remediation program and Chancellor Reed's new “graduation initiative.”

Those on hand expressed particular concern about a new requirement that would force all first-year students to complete their remedial coursework in the summer before beginning their fall classes.

Kimberly King, a psychology professor at CSU Los Angeles and chapter representative in CFA's Council for Affirmative Action said, “Pushing students who are now CSU-eligible into a mandatory early start program will have a disparate affect on low-income students and those from underserved groups.”

CSU Dominguez Hills student Adan Alonso told the Trustees about his own experiences in taking semester-long remedial coursework and how these classes prepared him for the rest of

his studies, "Taking all of the remedial courses prepared me. I was able to grow by going through these classes ... fast tracking the process will only hurt students..."

Faculty members also warned the Trustees that changes being considered under the graduation initiative could limit the quality of education students receive at the CSU

CFA President Lillian Taiz said, "The key, however, is HOW we increase our graduation numbers. Our daily interactions with students reveal two issues that account for most of the difficulties students have graduating — the availability of needed courses and financial difficulties that result in more hours working and fewer studying.

"We hope that all efforts will be made to avoid the easy way to increase graduation rates either by gimmicks or by damaging educational quality."

To read the full text of CFA President Taiz' comments, go to:
http://calfac.org/allpdf/Restructuring/TaizRemarkstoBOT_012610.pdf

- RESTRUCTURING INITIATIVE WILL SEVERELY LIMIT GE

As part of an initiative to increase graduation rates the CSU Board of Trustees have proposed shrinking general education requirements for graduation. Specific details of this part of the plan were scarce at publication time, but faculty members around the system were quick to express concerns about the impact such a move could have on the breadth and the quality of education provided to CSU students.

Ironically, this proposal by the CSU Administration came in the same week the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AACU) released a report emphasizing that GE courses are critical for providing students with the type of skills employers want and for creating the kind of informed citizenry a democracy needs.

See the report at:
http://www.aacu.org/press_room/press_releases/2010/employersurvey.cfm

- RESTRUCTURING ONGOING; READ THE CFA WHITE PAPER

Many campus administrators continue to initiate plans to "restructure" core academic subject areas that have come to comprise higher education as we know it today.

To view CFA's White Paper: "Restructuring" the CSU or Wrecking It?" that examines the methodology behind these restructuring proposals, go to:
<http://restructuringcsu.wordpress.com/>

OTHER NEWS

- SB 330 MOVES FORWARD IN LEGISLATURE

CFA-sponsored legislation continued to make its way through the state capitol last week.

Senate Bill (SB) 330, which is a reintroduction of last year's SB 218, was passed by the state Senate by a margin of 37 to one.

The sole "no" vote was cast by Senator Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana), who was the only member of either house to vote against SB 218 last year.

The bill, which is authored by Senator Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), seeks to update the California Public Records Act (CPRA) to include auxiliary organizations that perform government functions at the UC and CSU.

To address the Governor's veto message, the new bill will exempt from disclosure the names of volunteers and donors who wish to remain anonymous provided they do not receive something of value greater than \$500 in exchange for their donation or service.

- JOIN LABOR'S EFFORTS TO HELP HAITI

CFA, along with its allies in the labor community, encourages faculty and members of the campus community to take action to support the earthquake-ravaged people of Haiti.

There are some of the organizations to which you can donate:

Partners in Health Care (SEIU Affiliated): <http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/z73qTbY1nQSY/>

Solidarity Center Educational Fund: <http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/S13qTbY1nQSH/>

Red Cross International Response Fund: <http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/zp3qTbY1nQST/>

United Way worldwide disaster fund: <https://volunteer.united-e-way.org/uwwwdisaster/donate/>

Doctors Without Borders: <http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/z13qTbY1nQSQ/>

LINKS OF THE WEEK

Daily Breeze Editorial

http://calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper_articles/2010/DailyBreeze_013109_editorial.pdf

Sac Bee: CSU launches plan to boost graduation rates

<http://www.sacbee.com/capitolandcalifornia/story/2495400.html>

State Hornet: Guest Column on convocation from Kevin Wehr

<http://www.statehornet.com/opinion/guest-column-1.1088165>

Huff Post: How America's Universities Became Hedge Funds

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bob-samuels/how-americas-universities_b_440954.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 5-6

CFA Board of Directors Meeting

Feb 15

President's Day

CFA Statewide Offices closed

March 4

Statewide day of action for public education

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See CFA and other great video on: www.youtube.com/CFAlocal1983

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