

For Immediate Release
July 14, 2008

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Tuesday, July 15

Cal State U. Trustees to meet

401 Golden Shore, Long Beach
Closed session: 8:30 am
Open session: 9:45 am (approximate time)

LONG BEACH — The California State University's Board of Trustees will meet tomorrow in Long Beach where, among other things, they will discuss the state budget crisis, set the rate of pay for the new campus president of San Jose State University, and, in closed session, learn about the costly lawsuits on gender discrimination at Fresno State.

CFA President Lillian Taiz will address the Trustees on progress made through the Alliance for the CSU, a coalition of CSU advocates launched in March and already 46,000 strong.

"We have accomplished a great deal for the California State University by working hard together," says Taiz. "We hope that cooperation and willingness to solve problems can continue into future endeavors."

The Alliance has been working hard to win adequate state funding for the CSU, arguing for the important role public higher education plays in solving an economic downturn.

See the complete agenda with public notice documents at
<http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/>

Reporters can get information on how to listen to the proceedings by telephone from the Office of the CSU Chancellor at 562-951-4800.

Learn more about the Alliance for the CSU at
<http://www.alliancefortheesu.org>

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BACKGROUND

The CSU is Essential to California's Economy

Funding for the California State University should not be a difficult choice. As explained in a recent report prepared by the state's former Director of Finance, Tim Gage, publicly funded higher education is a help, not a detriment, to a troubled economy.

The CSU is an economic driver. It grants some 90,000 four-year college degrees a year—half of all the degrees granted in California—in fields vital to our state's businesses. The CSU contributes \$4.41 to regional economies for every \$1 spent by the state. From small shops in college towns to large suppliers of goods and services, such cuts would ripple through whole regions.

The CSU is a ladder of opportunity by putting degrees into the hands of people who in other states would never get them—people with degrees pay more taxes, rely less on public assistance, participate more in their communities, are healthier, and pass these advantages to their children.

The Planned Cut is Severe

Five years ago, previous cuts to the CSU topped a half billion dollars. The governor's funding increases since then have not kept up with inflation, while 44,000 students were added. Funding per student has actually decreased under this governor's watch.

\$288 million is equivalent to the entire budgets of four California State University campuses — CSU Channel Islands, CSU Monterey Bay, CSU Bakersfield, and CSU Stanislaus. It's like closing them completely, and more would still need to be cut.

Instead of closing campuses, the CSU would spread the cuts to all campuses resulting in fewer, larger classes that are harder to get. Students will need more than four years to graduate, run up more debt and take longer to enter the workforce where they are needed as nurses, teachers, engineers, public safety personnel, and professionals of all kinds.

Thousands more high school graduates and community college transfers will be turned away. Fees will go up and more students will drop out. The outcome of this budget debate will determine the future of the CSU, its 420,000 students, some 50,000 employees, and millions of future students it might — or might not — serve.

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Learn more about the CSU and its budget at www.alliancefortheesu.org

See the Tim Gage/Blue Sky Consulting Group report "Examining the Fiscal, Economic, and Social Impacts of the California State University," at <http://www.calpac.org/csureport.html>

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