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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 5, 2009

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STATEMENT FROM THE CALIFORNIA FACULTY ASSOCIATION
Liliian Taiz, President, California Faculty Association

**“WE OPPOSE PROPOSITION 1A BECAUSE IT WILL HARM
OUR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES”**

In a news conference telephone call today discussing his recommendation for yet another 10% increase in state university student fees, CSU Chancellor Charles Reed argued in favor of the May 19 Special Election ballot measures Propositions 1A through 1E.

Chancellor Reed is simply incorrect in saying that all these propositions are needed to avoid short-term immediate budget cuts to the CSU.

The fact is that Proposition 1A would have absolutely no impact on funding in the short term for the CSU. Taxes associated with Proposition 1A would not even go into effect until 2011, two years from now.

What's worse, Proposition 1A would have drastic, long-term impact on the CSU's budget.

Prop 1A's badly designed, so-called "Rainy Day" fund would put a new and even greater squeeze on funding the CSU, locking the system into a depleted budget and slamming a lid on possible restoration of funding for decades to come.

It would make planning the CSU budget even more unpredictable because Proposition 1A would give the governor unfettered power to make mid-year budget cuts to the CSU, even after a budget is adopted by the legislature.

California needs a better budget structure, a real rainy day fund, and rational funding of vital California programs including education from pre-school to college degree. Our young people need it, our economy needs it.

Proposition 1A would only make the mess worse.

That is why the California Faculty Association is strongly opposed to Proposition 1A.

ON CSU STUDENT FEES

The California Faculty Association has long argued that it is wrong to keep raising fees in the public university, especially when no work has been done to learn the impact of these fee increases on our students and our state.

Fees have more than doubled since 2002, and risen far in excess of inflation. The new increases exacerbate the situation.

Even before these recent fee hikes and budget cuts, California's economy has been headed for a one-million-person shortage of workers with Bachelor's degrees.

It is irresponsible for California's leaders to argue that other states have high fees, so ours can be increased. California needs to focus on what will make California great. If we want to turn this state's economy around, we should be making it easier, not harder, to get a college degree.

The California Faculty Association represents the 23,000 instructional faculty, librarians, counselors and coaches in the 23-campus California State University.

Dr. Lillian Taiz is a professor of history at Cal State Los Angeles.

For interviews, please contact CFA Communications Director Alice Sunshine at 510-384-1967.

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