

From the California Faculty Association

CFA HEADLINES

September 5, 2018 · Weekly news digest from CFA

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Tell the Governor: Sign SB 968 for CSU student access to mental health counseling

CFA urges all CSU faculty to [let Governor Brown know](#) our state universities need more mental health counselors to help our students. [Ask him to sign SB 968](#), a bill headed to his desk now.

As described in a [Headlines report](#) last week, all faculty are affected when our students cannot get timely help to cope with the pressure caused by the high cost of living in our state as well as by racial micro-aggressions, and attacks on their perceived immigration status, even as they work so hard to complete their college degrees.



The CFA Counselor Faculty Committee has [reported for years](#) about the decline in consistent and timely student access to mental health counseling on CSU campuses, even though that is an essential ingredient to helping students stay in school and move toward graduation.

This year, with bill author State Senator Richard Pan, a pediatrician who understands these issues, the counselors have campaigned for SB 968 to increase the number of counselors per students to one per 1500, encourage hiring counselors as full-time staff and who reflect the diversity of the student body, and report on the number of CSU student suicides—a grim statistic that should be reported publicly.

Please click here to [ask the Governor to sign this bill!](#)

See related articles in the [Golden Gate Xpress](#) (San Francisco State student news) and the [Daily 49er](#) (CSU Long Beach student news).

MORE CFA-SPONSORED BILLS ON GOVERNOR'S DESK. The two-year legislation cycle at the State Capitol ended Friday and two CFA-sponsored bills in addition to SB 968 are going to the governor for his signature.

SB 1421 will make policing in California more transparent. This “Right to Know” bill would [modify the special secrecy afforded police officers](#), making the record public in sustained cases of sexual assault or dishonesty in criminal investigations. SB 1421 also would make public records of police shootings and other serious use-of-force incidents. [A community fact sheet](#) developed by a coalition of backers explains the reasoning behind this bill. CFA joins with the coalition in calling on [Governor Brown to sign SB 1421](#).

Lastly, AB 2505 requires the CSU administration to a report on current hiring practices for all CSU positions, including executive, management, faculty, and non-faculty support staff. The report also would compare hiring practices at the CSU to the best practices for hiring persons to similar positions at UC and the California Community Colleges. This bill responds to a recent audit finding that the CSU administration operates without a coherent, meaningful plan when hiring managers. CFA urges the governor to sign.

PHOTO: The CFA Counselor Faculty Committee set up an art installation—Tissues for Issues—to illustrate the need for more student access to mental health counseling on CSU campuses. This display was at Cal Poly Pomona. Learn more on the [Tissues for Issues Facebook](#) page.

CSU Faculty! We can advance public higher education in the Nov. 6 election

Do you find election-time engaging? Has our country’s political climate made you decide now is the time to do something? Then, CFA has opportunities for you to [take political action](#).

Campus CFA Chapters are kicking off the electoral action this week to advocate for public higher education.

If you agree it is time to act for our public university, our students, our profession, and our commitment to racial and social justice, contact your campus CFA Chapter to [volunteer](#)

over the next nine weeks to communicate with voters.

“We have been lobbying members of the California State Legislature for many years to get the funding and laws that make our public university system work,” says Lillian Taiz, CFA Political Action and Legislation Chair.

“It’s very clear that we need to continue electing representatives who fully appreciate the critical role the California State University and all segments of public education play in the future of all our students, be they students of color, white or native. That understanding in our state’s leaders is key to ensure California’s success now and in the future,” Taiz says.



See [CFA-endorsed candidates](#) for statewide office and the Legislature

PHOTO Top: At CSU Channel Islands on Tuesday, the CFA Chapter set up a table outside Broome Library where students registered to vote and faculty committed to a few hours turning out voters in the Camarillo area for the November 6 election. Left to right: Students registering to vote with CFA President John Griffin, and faculty members Lorna Profant, and Nancy Deans. Lower: Faculty member Nelson Coates registered students to vote at the California Maritime Academy. [Click here to see a photo gallery](#) of electoral action on CSU campuses.

Trustees to take up next round of CSU state funding

The budget years keep coming and September is when we get a peek at what the CSU Chancellor is thinking about the 2019-2020 state funding request for our university system.



The CSU Board of Trustees will take up that question, along with many other topics when it meets September 11-12 at the Chancellor's Office in Long Beach. CFA leaders as well as students from Students for Quality Education will be there to deliver public comments to the many committees that meet Tuesday and to the plenary on Wednesday.

"The current Board has had more lively discussions —and sometimes even debate—about the CSU's funding than any board in our collective memory," notes CFA President Jennifer Eagan.

"The upcoming meeting is an important opportunity to be more assertive, to ask for the money this university system really needs. We owe our strongest advocacy to this generation of students, who are more diverse racially than ever, and in a time when we need more college-educated people than ever," Eagan says. "It is time to finally reverse the trend in which CSU funding got lighter as our students got darker."

CFA urges faculty members to tune in online. [The agenda is posted](#) now, and you can see the documents each committee will take up. When the meeting begins, you can go to the Trustee's [livestream page](#) to watch a live feed of the meeting on your computer or smartphone.

"It's instructive to watch some of the Trustees' deliberations, especially if you hope to lobby or get involved in advocacy for the university. It is worth seeing if you just want to get more connected to how the CSU system operates," says Eagan.

The public proceedings begin Tuesday at 10:30 am with the Committee on Educational Policy when Trustees will take up the Graduation Initiative, a multi-year policy endeavor to speed students to degree completion. This effort has a direct impact on what and how we teach as well as many other aspects of our students' lives.

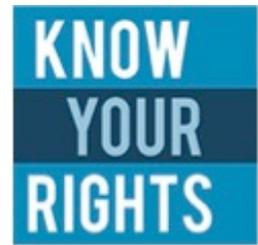
At 1 pm Tuesday, the Committee on Finance will take up the 2019-2020 budget request.

Next morning at 8:30 am, the plenary will be another interesting time to tune in. "Public Comment" is first on the plenary agenda and CFA leaders will address the board on various topics facing the CSU. Plenaries also include reports from Chancellor Timothy White and from the Academic Senate CSU among many others.

Faculty Rights Tip: I Need a Union Rep!

Have you (or someone you know) ever been called into a meeting with an administrator and you were not quite sure what the meeting was about?

And once in the meeting realized, you were being questioned or investigated about some issue for which you might be disciplined, reprimanded, or otherwise negatively affected? You need, and are entitled to have, a union representative or another advocate of your choosing with you at that meeting.



You can invoke your right to have an advocate with you before or during the meeting by saying:

“If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my working conditions, I request that my CFA representative or another advocate of my choosing be present at this meeting.”

The administrator must grant the request even if it means rescheduling the meeting to a time that works for you and your advocate.

The rights of represented (i.e. you are in a union) employees to bring an advocate and to have the time needed to obtain an advocate for investigatory meetings comes from the [1975 Supreme Court case, NLRB v. J. Weingarten](#), thus the term “Weingarten Rights.”

Given the increase in investigatory meetings, it’s important to know about and exercise these rights now more than ever. If you are called in, clarify whether the meeting could result in discipline.

Here are links to previous Faculty Rights Tips about Weingarten Rights:

- [Weingarten Rights](#)
- [Campus Investigations and Weingarten Rights](#)
- [More about Weingarten Rights](#)

CFA is here to help! If you have concerns, contact your campus [CFA faculty rights representative](#)

For answers to questions or to suggest a tip, [please write us](#) with the subject line “Faculty Rights Tip.” See [previous Faculty Rights Tips](#) on a range of topics in our contract.

In Other News

REMINDER: SEPT 8 MARCH TO SAVE OUR PLANET: [Rise for Climate, Jobs & Justice](#) will challenge anti-intellectual science deniers and advocate for responsible action to save our planet. [California's main event](#) is on Sept. 8 in San Francisco, and the Labor contingent will be led by the ILWU Drill Team and the Crucible Fire Truck from Firefighters Local 798. Join the CFA contingent at 10 am on Steuart Street just off Market Street by the Embarcadero.

CFA AVP ADDRESSES MEXICAN FACULTY UNION: In August, CFA Associate Vice President Lecturers-North Jonathan Karpf delivered greetings and solidarity from CFA to the 10,000 delegates of STUNAM, the faculty union at the National Autonomous University of México. He was one of only two invited speakers from the U.S.

SEPT. 28 CONFERENCE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM: The Faculty Association of California Community Colleges and the American Association of University Professors invite all faculty to a conference to explore what is academic freedom, how it's protected, and what can be done when it's violated. It features Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of UC Berkeley Law, along with other speakers and panelists on Sept. 28 at Berkeley City College. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Links of the Week

Poor in Rich Times: State Funding for Public Higher Education in California
[Diverse Issues in Higher Education](#)

In spring 2018, I woke up to an email announcing a proposed \$61 million cut from the Governor's Office to the California State University's (CSU) 23-campus system's requested budget for 2018-2019. I had long been baffled that a state so rich in resources – the sixth largest economy in the world – could be so poor when it came to supporting the single largest producer of the California's workforce.

Deceptive Facebook post distorts California proposal on abortion med
[PolitiFact](#)

If SB 320 passes the state Assembly, it will mandate access to medication abortion on the 34 public campuses in the UC and California State University. (Update: This bill passed the legislature and is on the way to the governor's desk.)

NewsConference: The CSU as an Engine of the Calif. Economy
[NBC 4 News Conference](#)

CSU Chancellor Timothy White discusses diversity, online education and the need to give back.

Professors and Students as Roommates?
[Inside Higher Ed](#)

It's not a concept for a sitcom — UC Santa Cruz is so strapped for space it is asking faculty and staff to open their homes for students to rent.

Study on Chief Diversity Officers and Faculty Hiring
[Inside Higher Ed](#)

Is having a [chief diversity officer](#) linked to significant gains in faculty diversity? Not really, says [a new working paper](#) published by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Federal judge denies states' request to end DACA

[Associated Press](#)

A federal judge on Friday declined to order that the U.S. government halt an Obama-era program that shields young immigrants from deportation, marking a blow to President Donald Trump and other opponents of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

Los Angeles Teachers Prepare for Strike

[Capital & Main](#)

United Teachers Los Angeles took a critical step closer to a strike last week — L.A. Unified's first in 29 years — with a strike authorization vote by 33,000 union educators at the nation's second-largest school district.

Gov. Brown again to decide whether to ban for-profit charter schools

[EdSource](#)

Frustrated by being mistaken for their money-making cousins, the organization representing California's charter schools, which are overwhelmingly run by nonprofit boards, is calling on Gov. Jerry Brown to sign a bill that would outlaw for-profit charter schools.

The Guardian US teacher takeover

[The Guardian](#)

A teacher from Massachusetts told us his students fear snow days—because when school is not in session, they don't eat. A teacher from West Virginia said administrators at his high school never purchased a science curriculum—so the students watched episodes of CSI during science period for an entire year. A teacher from Oklahoma shared what it's like to live on food stamps—when you have a master's degree. These are some of the stories the Guardian's US editors heard when we began talking with teachers for a series exploring the new wave of teacher activism sweeping the country. As we listened to their riveting—and often devastating—stories during a national teachers' conference in July, it became clear that no one could tell the story of the crisis in America's classroom better than the teachers themselves. We hatched the Guardian US teacher takeover and invited a team of educators from across the country to collaborate with us on a project that launches today (Sept. 5).

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