

From the California Faculty Association

CFA HEADLINES

November 14, 2018 · Weekly news digest from CFA

Colleagues: CFA Headlines will take a break next week for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will have the CSU communities affected, and all fire victims in our hearts. We wish you a restful holiday. CFA Headlines will be back on November 28.

- **Fire Disasters—Faculty, campus communities hit hard by loss of homes, class cancellations, bad air quality**
- **California vote count continues; Contest for Superintendent of Public Instruction still too close to call**
- **CFA addresses Trustees on use of funds and student mental health, fees, and safety**
- **Faculty Rights Tip: Assigned Time for Exceptional Levels of Service to Students**
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Fire Disasters—Faculty, campus communities hit hard by loss of homes, class cancellations, bad air quality

Devastating wildfires have affected large numbers of CSU faculty and students along with entire California communities.

Worst hit is CSU Chico where flames from the Camp Fire, deemed the deadliest in California history, came within a few miles of campus before changing direction.

The Chico campus is closed through November 16; classes are suspended through November 26. Learn more about the status in [emergency campus updates](#) and this [emergency campus FAQ](#).



“We were a mile from the required evacuation zone and at that point the fire was zero percent contained,” says CFA Treasurer Susan Green, who teaches at CSU Chico and lives in town. “So, we boxed up the animals and fled. The hardest part was helping my elderly father who is in a wheelchair.”

Green notes that while the numbers are not yet known, faculty, staff and students at CSU Chico and nearby Butte Community College have lost their homes, and large numbers are displaced.

“While some are in shelters,” says Green, “thousands are scattered, even living in tents and vehicles, walking around dazed in the smoke, and feeling every emotion possible. Those of us inside are sleeping with our air masks on.”

Air quality, which can be monitored for all locations on the [EPA website](#), remains unhealthy through a large swath of Northern and Southern California.

Sacramento State also has been closed due to poor air quality, and is scheduled to reopen Friday, Nov. 16. See [Sacramento](#) updates [here](#).

San Francisco State, California Maritime Academy, CSU East Bay and Sonoma State remain open, with classes in session, but outdoor activities have been cancelled due to lingering bad air quality.

Particulate masks are available. Learn how to get them at SFSU [here](#) and at Cal Maritime [here](#). At Sonoma, masks are available at the student center and at parking kiosks.

In Southern California, CSU Channel Islands is closed again after returning from an evacuation late last week due to the Woolsey Fire in L.A. and Ventura Counties. The evacuation rocked the campus a second time last week, coming just after a deadly shooting during “college night” at a nearby club frequented by Channel Islands students.

Although the fire did not reach campus, and the campus will reopen for employees tomorrow, Nov. 15, classes have been suspended until Nov. 26 out of concern for fire flare-ups and very poor air quality. See Channel Islands status updates [here](#).

Other Southern California campuses are operating normally, despite moderate to poor air quality in some locations.

HOW FACULTY CAN GET HELP AND HELP OTHERS

Members of the California Faculty Association can seek disaster relief aid through our affiliated unions, CTA and SEIU.

The Service Employees International Union’s California State Council has a fund to help families of members. At the SEIU California [disaster relief web page](#), faculty can donate to the fund, and union members can apply for relief.

The California Teachers Association makes [CTA Disaster Relief Grants](#) to members, including CFA members, who suffer significant losses due to disasters in California. CFA Members can go to the link to complete the CTA Disaster Relief Grant application and, in Chico, CFA members can go to the CTA office at 1430 East Avenue, Suite #1 to apply and to learn about other sources of help.

The California Governor’s Office has created [CaliforniaVolunteers.ca.gov](#) and anyone can go there to learn how they can help.

The Airbnb Evacuee Program is helping evacuees [find temporary housing](#).

At Chico State, the [Wildcats Rise Fire Recovery Fund](#) has been established.

The Butte County web site has [an extensive list of help](#) available, including a list of shelters and evacuation information, as well as instructions on searching for missing persons and pets, and many more vital details.

The **Ventura County Fire Dept** on Twitter has a lot of useful information, including [this link](#).

Los Angeles County has posted this [web site](#) with extensive information on the status of evacuations, road closures, help with pets, and more.

PHOTO: A plane fights the Woolsey Fire near CSU Channel Islands.

California vote count continues; Contest for Super. of Public Instruction still too close to call

As of this morning, more than 3 million ballots of California voters remained to be counted.

Tony Thurmond, the CFA-endorsed candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, [moved into the lead](#) although it could be days or weeks before enough votes are counted in the statewide race to declare a winner.

Lillian Taiz, chair of CFA's Political Action and Legislation Committee, points out "The good news is that voter turnout and motivation has been way up in this election; at the same time the sheer volume of votes makes counting them time consuming. In the end, it may take a minute but California will make sure that every vote counts."



Hundreds of CFA members up and down the state participated in electoral upsets, helping long-shot CFA-endorsed candidates for State Assembly and State Senate win, and joining with members of other unions to help elect a number of NEA- and SEIU-endorsed challengers to incumbent Congressional Republicans.

Taiz says, "This year alone, CFA members put in *4000 hours* of political action—some of us devoted as many as 100 hours. We contributed to historic voter turnout in California. Our faculty participated in the huge increase in people knocking on voters' doors and we know that is key to convincing more people to get to the polls."

She points out, "This election means a lot for public higher education, and the California State University especially. Having a governor-elect and a legislature focused on access, affordability and quality in the CSU means a better chance for reinvestment in public higher education."

She adds, "Of course, we cannot rest on our laurels now; instead we have to continue our advocacy for the CSU."

- [Watch the Secretary of State's election web site](#) as the vote unfolds over coming days.
- [See the latest in the close still-undeclared races in California](#), including for Congress.

PHOTO: Tony Thurmond, candidate for California Superintendent of Public Instruction, addressed the CFA Assembly in October.

CFA addresses Trustees on use of funds and student mental health and safety

At their meeting this week, CFA challenged CSU Trustees to more critically scrutinize mental health care on the campuses, spoke out for stronger measures on student safety, and called for better use of state funds.



On State Funding for the CSU: CFA

President Jennifer Eagan reminded Trustees and the Chancellor that the extra state funding CFA worked hard to win in this year's CSU budget was meant to admit more students and hire more tenure-line faculty.

While praising the Chancellor and Trustees for working with CFA to get that money, she said, "it is dispiriting" to realize the money is not being used to have "more actual students and faculty on the tenure line." See [video of Committee on Finance](#) at time 14:30.

On Student Safety: Cecil Canton, CFA Associate Vice President for Affirmative Action North, helped Trustees and CSU executives comprehend the experiences of students of color—as well as faculty and staff—on and around CSU campuses.

"I realize it's hard for people who have never experienced being black or brown, or a young person of color, to appreciate the fear and the animosity we experience at times and in places where we are a small number of the population," he said.

He urged the "people in this room" to "take this issue seriously and listen to us about what makes us feel safe ... For you this is a policy discussion, but for us, it's a life and death issue." See [video of Plenary Session](#) at time 10:24.

To remind the Trustees that it is 19 months since African-American Humboldt State student David Josiah Lawson was murdered, his mother and brother spoke about the persistent fears of Black students, and played a recording of the slain student's aspirational speech just before leaving home for HSU. Charmaine Lawson praised Chancellor Timothy White for intervening personally to press for further investigation. See [video of Plenary Session](#) at time 20:30.

On Student Mental Health Care: Mimi Bommersbach, chair of the CFA Counselor Faculty Committee, advised the Trustees that a report by Chancellor's Office staff paints an unrealistically rosy picture of the status of student mental health services on the 23 CSU campuses.

"All counselors at the CSU are absolutely slammed with cases," she said, adding that burn out and turnover of CSU counselors is high due to understaffing and increased hiring on temporary

contracts. The result is too few counselors to provide ongoing, informed care for growing numbers of students suffering anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts. See [video of Educational Policy Committee](#) at time 41:05.

She was supported by CFA Secretary Kevin Wehr who described a student at his campus who sought care: “Two weeks ago, her sister attempted suicide. ... She was told counseling might be available to her in December.” Ill-advised long wait times for appointments have become commonplace on CSU campuses, according to counselors. See [video of Educational Policy Committee](#) at time 44:55.

In other developments at the Trustees meeting:

- Students for Quality Education from the East Bay, Fullerton and SLO campuses called for more student mental health services, and a rollback in tuition. They called on CSU East Bay, which serves a large African-American student population, to proceed with creating already-approved African-American and Dreamer Resource Centers.
- Faculty Trustee Romey Sibelius chided a report on student tuition that suggested the CSU's low tuition compared to other states leaves room for hikes. Sibelius said this “should be a point of pride” that it is low. A new study finds at most state university systems [tuition is getting out of reach](#) of low-income students.
- Trustees decided to sell the chancellor's house in Long Beach, and to invest the money in hopes it will cover a housing allowance for the Chancellor of \$7917 a month (\$95,000 a year).
- Students and faculty from CSU Northridge protested new general education and remediation policies now being implemented in accord with two CSU Chancellor Executive Orders. See [video of Educational Policy Committee](#).

PHOTO: Former Humboldt State student Naomi Waters, who was president of the HSU Black Student Union during her time there, told Trustees in a moving presentation about the open hostility and subtle racism she encountered on and around campus that ultimately drove her to seek an education elsewhere. See [video of Plenary Session](#) at 18:08.

Faculty Rights Tip: Assigned Time for Exceptional Levels of Service to Students

Article 20.37 of our Collective Bargaining Agreement provides for:

“assigned time to faculty employees who are engaged in exceptional levels of service that support the CSU's priorities, but who are not otherwise receiving an adjustment in workload to reflect their effort.”

This provision was a major achievement in our last round of bargaining and is a recognition by the CSU that some faculty are providing exceptional levels of service to students but are not receiving workload relief for this effort.



“Assigned time from this pool may be awarded for student mentoring, advising, and outreach, especially as these activities support underserved, first-generation, and/or underrepresented students; the development and implementation of high-impact educational practices; curricular redesign intended to improve student access and success; service to the department, college, university, or community that goes significantly beyond the normal expectations of all faculty; assignment to courses where increases to enrollment have demonstrably increased workload; and other extraordinary forms of service to students.”

The article was carried forward with our recent contract extension and many campuses are currently considering applications from faculty. Each campus developed their own criteria and procedures so the deadlines and application procedures will vary from campus to campus.

All faculty, counselors, librarians, and coaches are eligible to apply.

CFA Bargaining Team Chair Kevin Wehr says, "In bargaining for this provision, we were particularly mindful of the '[cultural taxation](#)' of faculty of color and LGBT faculty in serving students. Students of color, LGBT students, and first-generation students often look to faculty who are like them for advising, assistance, and supervision, and the administration has traditionally failed to recognize the importance and value of this work."

CFA encourages you to seek out the criteria and application process on your campus and apply for this assigned time.

[Click here to find CFA faculty rights advocates](#) on your campus.

If you have questions about a Faculty Rights Tip or would like 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.

Finally, CFA has embarked on an anti-racism and social justice transformation this year. To that end, we have been holding meetings to talk with faculty and will continue to offer trainings and workshops on Unconscious Bias. [Contact your CFA chapter leaders](#) to learn more.

In Other News

CFA ON TRANSGENDER RIGHTS: The officers of CFA last week adopted [a statement affirming support for the rights of transgender people](#) in the CSU, including full protection under the contract between the faculty and CSU management. In "CFA Supports Transgender, Two-Spirit, Nonbinary, Intersex, and Gender Non-Conforming Faculty, Staff, and Students in the face of potential federal proposal," they note the contract prohibits discrimination broadly, including on the basis of "...sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information..." They pledge, "Regardless of hate-based changes in federal policy, CFA will continue to vigorously defend our contractual protections."

MAKE A CALL TO HELP NORTHEASTERN U. FACULTY FORM A UNION: Northeastern U. faculty are in a bitter fight with campus management that declares they have no right to unionize. Faculty asks faculty allies to call campus president Joseph Aoun at (617) 373-2101 to tell him you are a faculty union member and his union busting is appalling. Questions? Contact kristin.kelleher@seiu.org

Links of the Week

How Gov-Elect Gavin Newsom could shape California's future

[The San Jose Mercury News](#)

Governor Brown wanted to make sure students graduated in four years, but in our view, he didn't think about what infrastructure needs to be in place to make that happen," said Jennifer Eagan, president of the California Faculty Association, which represents CSU professors. "I think Newsom has a much clearer sense of the experience our students have." Eagan said faculty will be watching in January to see if Newsom proposes a state budget that avoids further student fee increases.

'Unprecedented' Turnout by College Students in Midterm Elections

[Inside Higher Ed](#)

College-age citizens appear to have voted at record levels and influenced multiple close races.

More Students Are Being Treated for Mental Health Issues

[Inside Higher Ed](#)

College students increasingly are being diagnosed and treated for mental health issues, according to a [new study](#) published by the American Psychiatric Association. ...survey data from 155,000 students at 196 college campuses found the rate of respondents being treated for mental health issues in the past year increased to 34% in 2017 from 19% in 2007, while the percentage of students with lifetime diagnoses increased to 36% from 22%. Depression and suicide risks also increased, according to the study. But the stigma of being diagnosed with a mental illness decreased, which could explain some of the increases.

As Sonoma State Recovers from a Wildfire, Another California Blaze Begins

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

One year later, CSU Chico faces similar devastation while the Camp Fire burns outside its campus.

Families mourn as first California fire victims are named; at least 42 confirmed dead

[Sun Sentinel](#)

At the Neighborhood Church in Chico, counselors, chaplains and nursing students from CSU Chico were available to help.

Majority of Veterans Eligible for Loan Forgiveness Are in Default

[Inside Higher Ed](#)

No Big Raises for CSU Presidents: Faculty Union Rejects Proposal

[MyNewsLA.com](#)

CSUF presidential search committee hosts open forum

[The Daily Titan](#) (CSU Fullerton)

"I would like a president that is on campus a lot, has an open door policy for the most part and someone who listens to students and faculty and staff," said Andrew Flores, a fourth-year psychology major and Students for Quality Education member.

Pioneer Pete gets the boot

[The Pioneer](#) (CSU East Bay)

Say goodbye to CSU East Bay's mascot, Pioneer Pete. The academic senate made the decision to remove [it]. SQE helped bring awareness to how the mustached figure can be seen as "culturally insensitive" to their organization and to CSUEB's diverse campus.

Court Upholds Injunction Keeping DACA in Place

[Inside Higher Ed](#)

Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw wrote [the court's opinion](#) ... The case was brought by the UC, which issued a [statement](#). "Today's decision is yet another strong message from our nation's courts that the government's attempt to rescind DACA was unlawful." The battle may soon be headed to the Supreme Court.

Cal State starts new era, ending no-credit remedial classes

[EdSource](#)

California teacher pension fund pulls money out of immigrant detention

[Sacramento Bee](#)

... out of two private prison companies that have contracts to house immigrants detained at the Mexican border.

San Diego hotel workers end 35-day strike with new contract

[San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

Anaheim's 'living wage' initiative is expected to pass

[Los Angeles Times](#)

A ballot initiative that requires some hospitality businesses to pay workers at least \$15 an hour, with 51.5% of ballots counted as of Monday cast in favor of the measure.

An About-Face for House Science Committee

[Inside Higher Ed](#)

Democratic takeover promises sharp change in direction for science committee, whose GOP leaders had promoted climate change denialism, meddled in federal grant making and badgered researchers.

Scientists: Wind, drought worsen fires, not bad management

[Associated Press](#)

Both nature and humans share blame for California's devastating wildfires, but forest management did not play a major role, despite President Donald Trump's claims, fire scientists say.

The American civil war didn't end. And Trump is a Confederate president

[The Guardian](#)

Rebecca Solnit: We never cleaned up after the civil war, never made it anathema, as the Germans have since the second world war, to support the losing side. We never had a truth and reconciliation process like South Africa did.

See more at [CFA in the News](#)

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