

January 16, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CFA Response to Governor Newsom's 2025-2026 State Budget Proposal

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing on behalf of the California Faculty Association (CFA) to provide our perspective on your 2025-26 State Budget Proposal as it relates to the California State University (CSU). The California Faculty Association represents over 29,000 faculty, including tenure-track professors, lecturers, librarians, counselors, and coaches, from all the campuses of the California State University system. CFA centers anti-racism and social justice in our mission, work, and advocacy for the CSU and California.

The California State University (CSU) system is the largest public four-year higher education institution in the country. CFA firmly believes that the success of the CSU is tightly tied to the talents and work of its employees. We note that the faculty and staff of the CSU engaged in herculean efforts to meet the challenges of the recent pandemic and continue those efforts as we adapt our universities and our educational programs to address the evolving needs of our students and our communities.

Students of color make up much of the CSU student population, including Latinx, Chicanx, Black, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Desi-American, Indigenous, and Native American students. Many are the first in their families to attend college and our faculty and staff are committed to maintaining an environment and support services that enable our students to succeed. The CSU produces the most ethnically diverse graduates who not only contribute to California's diverse economy, they take on leadership roles in our society. In order to instantiate the promise of the CSU, we must ensure that it is adequately funded.

While we appreciate the challenges you face in balancing the State Budget, this budget proposal includes a devastating 7.95% reduction in resources allocated to public higher education provided by the CSU. This reduction would drastically reduce the CSU's funding and would critically damage our ability to provide the quality education California's students deserve. A reduction of this magnitude would require the CSU to continue reducing the number of faculty and staff, and continue to reduce the number of courses offered, all of which contribute to impeding student progress toward degree.

We note that in 2024-25, a fiscal year in which CSU had a net gain in state funding allocation, CSU management chose to impose "austerity" programs on virtually every campus that have decimated the ranks of faculty and staff and significantly reduced courses and services available to our students. The impact on our students and communities is very real.

The dire reduction in funding countenanced by your proposal for 2025-26 would further reduce our ability to meet the mission of the CSU – providing quality, life-changing education to the students of California. We underscore the reality that those reductions disproportionately impact our students, faculty and staff of color, further disenfranchising students from the promise of an affordable public education that enables them to improve their and their families' lives. The reductions also hinder faculty and staff from developing

sustainable careers in service to our students and communities. Our faculty and staff remain deeply committed to the mission of the CSU. Please don't make it impossible for us to meet that commitment.

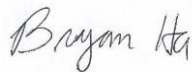
CFA is requesting modifications to your 2025-26 Proposed State Budget:

- 1. We ask that you and the legislature reverse the planned 7.95% cut to the CSU.**
- 2. We ask that you continue to explore means to invest more in the CSU and the future workforce of California.**
- 3. In addition, we ask that you join our efforts to hold CSU management accountable for their resource allocation decisions by enacting appropriate accountability measures.**

Governor Newsom, you have promised to uplift higher education, the working classes, and communities of color. California's future requires that you make good on those promises. This starts through investment in the education that empowers our students' success. While you and your Administration might hesitate to invest because of uncertainties in future revenues, our State cannot afford further underfunding of the California State University.

The California Faculty Association is grateful for your long record of supporting public higher education. We look forward to continuing our work with you and the Legislature to craft a budget that provides the resources requisite to supporting the nearly 500,000 students in the CSU and the dedicated education professionals who serve them.

Respectfully,



Bryan Ha
Director of Government Relations
California Faculty Association (CFA)

cc: Senate Pro Tem Mike McGuire
Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
Scott Wiener, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Jesse Gabriel, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
John Laird, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1
David Alvarez, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3
Members of the CA State Legislature
Christine Aurre, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
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Diego Emilio J. Lopez, Consultant, Budget Subcommittee 1 on Higher Education, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review
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Monica Henestroza, Office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
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