

FROM: THE CALIFORNIA FACULTY ASSOCIATION
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CFA HEADLINES

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CFA SLAMS GOVERNOR'S 2007/08 BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE CSU

The California Faculty Association today slammed the governor's state budget proposal that imposes another steep fee increase on California State University students while doing nothing to rebuild the CSU from past budget cuts that have led to class cuts, overcrowding and loss of student services.

"Once again the governor's budget under-funds the California State University," said John Travis, CFA President and a political science professor at Humboldt State University. "It's a terrible disappointment that so soon after the election the governor backs away from his commitment to education, especially public higher education.

"Our state is not providing the funding that is really needed to teach students, and that means we can no longer live up to the vision of ensuring them an accessible, affordable, high quality education.

"Students are the ones who will suffer from this. Under-funding combined with yet another big fee increase and it means even more young Californians will be shut out of the CSU.

"We had a great powerful public higher education system in this state and it tears me apart to watch our state simply throw it away."

CONTRACT TALKS & DISAPPEARING CONTINGENCY FUNDING

In contract talks, CFA's bargaining team has resisted agreeing to faculty salary increases with strings attached to them. CSU administration's salary offers have included 1% each year for the next three years contingent on funding from the governor.

"Today we see," Taiz added, "that we are right to reject making future salary increases contingent on the governor's actions."

Observers note the Chancellor and the Trustees asked for a student fee buy out in public while supporting a 10% increase in private. One can not help but wonder whether they also signaled the governor that the contingent 1% for salaries could be dropped.

LIES AND BAD STATISTICS

This budget proposal is likely to further complicate CFA's relationship with the current CSU administration, the CSU Chancellor Charles Reed and key CSU Trustees who have close ties to the governor such as Bill Hauck.

The CSU Public Affairs Office has been promoting heavily its bogus claim of a generous pay offer in the faculty's contract talks. Among the claims is that 1% of faculty raises each year for three years would be adopted in the state budget. This 2007/08 budget proposal is the first year of that plan, and it already lies in the dust.

To make matters worse, this month the Chancellor's Office sent a letter to all members of the state legislature repeating the flat lie that they offered the faculty 27% over four years "for nine month's work."

With the new 2007/08 governor's budget proposal now laid bare, the lies are piling up in the open.

LIES ABOUT STUDENT FEE HIKES

The CSU Trustees' public budget request to the governor included a "buy-out", i.e. a request to provide extra funding, to avoid another student fee increase. But the budget document indicates the Trustees argued in favor of a 10% fee increase in private.

The governor's *Budget Summary 2007/08* reads the CSU "advised the (governor's) administration that undergraduate student fee increases were necessary."

CFA Vice President Lillian Taiz, a history professor at Cal State Los Angeles said, "We are all horrified. CFA has long critiqued the CSU Trustees and administration for not working hard enough to get the needed funding to provide quality instruction and curb student fee increases. While they have always appeared weak and ineffective, now it seems that they are duplicitous as well."

Combined with previous fee increases, the new 10% hike means CSU undergrad fees have nearly doubled, rising 94% since 2002.

SPECIFICS OF THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CSU

Student fee increase

\$97.8 million = Income generated by another 10% student fee increase for undergraduates, graduate student and teacher credential candidates (94% cumulative increase for undergrads since 2002)

The "Compact" funding

\$108.9 million = 4% increase in base funding from the state for the CSU

\$65.5 million = Funding to increase total CSU student enrollment by 2.5% (8,355 additional full-time equivalent students)

Additional funding

\$2 million earmark for three regional science and math teacher recruitment centers to address shortage of teachers in these subjects & expand existing campus programs

Funding cut

\$7 million cut from outreach to and retention of students who are first-generation college-goers, low-income and otherwise disadvantaged.

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