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CFA CSUN Chapter Faculty Senate Report

CFA ADDRESSES CSU TRUSTEES ON ETHNIC STUDIES TASK FORCE REPORT, ETC.

CFA Statewide President Jen Eagan, CFA Secretary Molly Talcott, and CFA Bargaining Team Chair Kevin Wehr addressed the CSU Board of Trustees on Tuesday morning.

The Case for Ethnic Studies

In moving comments describing her own experience teaching Latin American studies, Talcott told the Trustees, "It's beautiful to behold students developing their own self-understandings alongside a broader understanding of history, politics, and social life."

Talcott pointed out, "The effects on academic performance were not limited to their ethnic studies classes. In fact, the largest gains for students attending ethnic studies courses were found among boys and among Latinos in the subjects of science and math."

She called on the Chancellor and Trustees to support the recommendation of the Task Force on Ethnic Studies to increase hiring of Ethnic Studies faculty.

What do we do with our peacetime?

CFA President Jennifer Eagan told the Trustees and campus presidents, who regularly attend Trustees meetings, that now is the opportunity to forge working relations between CFA and CSU management that can advance the CSU now and make for better contract talks in the future.

"The point of peacetime is to create more of it, and to do work that lays the foundation to resolve future conflicts," she said.

Specifically, Eagan called on the Chancellor, his administration, and the Trustees to work with CFA on securing more state funding for the CSU, achieving a shared understanding of academic freedom and intellectual property rights, increasing tenure density "to honor all faculty," and a better understanding of which policies really help the demographic of students who rely on the CSU.

About the Faculty Contract

While acknowledging that the implementation of the latest contract agreement appears to be going well, CFA Bargaining Team Chair Kevin Wehr said more is needed to make progress on Lecturer Range Elevation, a topic still to be resolved. To date 11 of the 23 campuses have submitted some data

about the ranges of lecturers on their respective campuses, which is needed for the talks.

Wehr said, “We hope that the Campus Presidents will do everything they can to help us solve this issue at the bargaining table instead of making us go through the costly and time-consuming process of arbitration.”

CSU ACADEMIC SENATE & CSU TRUSTEES ENDORSE PROP 55

The CSU Academic Senate and the CSU Board of Trustees stepped up this week with endorsements to Vote Yes on Prop 55.

Lillian Taiz, CFA Statewide Political Action & Legislation Chair, told the Trustees CFA is ready to work with them, including at phone banks and precinct walks to get Prop 55 passed.

“It is one issue on which we can work together immediately,” she said. “We must be prepared to work like the devil to keep our CSU system on track.”

Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom joined the Trustees meeting Tuesday for the endorsement vote for Yes on 55. CFA and CSU Employees Union leaders observing the meeting applauded when the Trustees voted to endorse.

The Academic Senate resolution supporting a Yes on Prop 55 reads, in part:

“...the ASCSU favors this continued investment in California public education. Predictable state support for other education partners is critical to preserving stable funding for the CSU. This in turn helps to control tuition costs for students and their families.”