



5-11-17

## CFA CSUN Chapter Faculty Senate Report

### **CFA TO LAWMAKERS: COUNSELING SERVICES NEED CRITICAL SUPPORT**

CFA submitted information to the California State Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Tuesday about counseling services in the CSU and the critical need to hire more full-time, tenure-line counselors for the system's 23 campuses.

While the International Association of Counseling Services recommends a maximum ratio of 1,500 students for each full-time equivalent counselor on campus, only three of the 23 campuses meet that standard. At Cal State LA, there are only 7.5 full-time counseling positions for over 27,000 students; at CSU Sacramento, there are 11 positions for more than 30,000 students.

Kevin Wehr, CFA's Associate VP North and Secretary-elect, said the situation has been a concern of his for more than a decade. Between 2007 and 2011, there was a 100 percent turnover when tenured and tenure-track faculty quit in protest over working conditions. They were replaced with temporary counselors who are paid less and have fewer rights.

"These faculty directly help our students, from suicide prevention and mental health therapy to counseling our gay, lesbian, and transgender students," he said. "The ratios of counselors to students is out of control in the CSU, and we need the Legislature to understand the critical need for these types of services in our university system. They literally save lives, yet aren't being treated with the respect they have earned in their years of service."

"This, too, speaks to the need for the governor and Legislature to reinvest in the People's University and fully fund the \$325 million requested by the CSU. The investment in the short-term will have far-reaching impact in the long term."

### **CFA TO LAWMAKERS: ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAMS ARE STRUGGLING**

More than 80 faculty, students, lawmakers and legislative staff crowded a hearing in the Capitol recently to hear an update on Black and Ethnic Studies within the CSU, UC and community college systems.

The goal of the hearing, said Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber, was to ensure the departments and programs are continuing to thrive. Weber, a former faculty member at San Diego State, and Assemblymember Kevin McCarty took testimony from expert panelists, including Dr. Charles Toombs, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies at San Diego State, and Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies at Cal State Long Beach.

Toombs, Vice President-elect of CFA, told Weber that programs are struggling.

"In a time when our students are more diverse, Ethnic Studies is marginalized in the CSU," he said.

## **CFA POLITICAL FUNDS**

Teaching and working in the California State University are affected by decisions made at our State Capitol, starting with how much funding the state legislature and the governor will provide to the CSU each year. CFA political funds are used to support political causes and candidates for the state legislature and statewide ballot measures identified as good for public higher education, for the CSU in particular, and for the faculty and students of the CSU.

Faculty in the campus CFA Chapters interview candidates and make recommendations to the CFA Board of Directors as to whom and what to support at election time. When we contribute to a candidate individually, our few dollars accomplish a little. But, by banding together through our union, we can have a real impact for the future of the CSU.

As a CFA member, voluntary deductions for CFA political funds are \$10 per month (or \$5 if gross monthly salary is below \$2,000), unless one has previously opted out of these contributions.