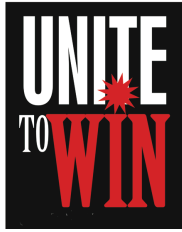


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CSU Academic Unions Form Alliance To better advocate for CA state universities

Determined to turn around diminishing funding from the state, misplaced priorities in how funding is used, and repeated attempts to reduce employee working conditions even as the state economy improves, two California State University unions representing the faculty and academic support professionals announced this week a new alliance to save the nation's largest four-year university system from decline.

The California Faculty Association (CFA) and the Academic Professionals of California (APC) formed the new alliance to increase cooperation and mutual action to further their twin goals of quality education in the CSU and improved working conditions for employees as they serve students. Together the two unions represent over 25,000 CSU faculty members and staff.

CFA President Dr. John Travis, a political science professor at Humboldt State, says, "Members of both unions are deeply concerned that current policies by the CSU administration and the governor will not allow California's state university system to live up to its vision. Our members are witnesses to the impact of diminishing State appropriations for the CSU coupled with increasing student taxation in the form of student fees which have left our University inaccessible to large numbers of working Californians and unable to fulfill its promise of quality education to those who do gain admission."

APC President Dr. Charles Goetzl, a student disability counselor at CSU East Bay, stresses monetary pressures coupled with misplaced managerial priorities have undermined the stability and quality of the CSU workforce which provides instructional and student services. "The CSU has high turnover among quality employees and a growing inability to attract the 'best and brightest' to service in public higher education."

"Salaries are falling behind comparable pay in other institutions, especially given the California cost of living. And overall CSU enrollment has grown over the years without adequate increases in the number of faculty and academic staff leaving both students and employees with intolerable problems including overcrowding, speed-up and a severe decline in morale," Goetzl adds.

Leaders of both unions expressed a desire to continue to improve representation for their members and of advocating for the California State University as a whole, which is a vital resource for the people of California. "We hope this is a step toward achieving that goal," says Travis.

Both CFA and APC will maintain their current organizational structures but will increase their level of communication and cooperation in such areas as collective bargaining strategy, legislative action, pension protection, and State politics.

In keeping with national developments in organized labor, the new CFA/APC agreement includes mutual assistance provisions to protect against jurisdictional raids by other unions and employer efforts to weaken either union by inappropriate movement of employees among job classifications.

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