



NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA FACULTY ASSOCIATION

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CFA Calls on CSU Chancellor White to Lead on COVID-19

Future of California Depends on a Trained Workforce; Faculty and Students on the Front Lines Must Have Voice in Decision-Making Process

SACRAMENTO — Today, the California Faculty Association (CFA) called on California State University (CSU) Chancellor Timothy P. White to provide much needed leadership during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, starting with listening to the voices of CSU faculty, students, and staff who are on the front lines of the 23 campuses throughout the state.

CFA professors, lecturers, librarians, counselors, and coaches are the first responders of the CSU and have the most direct contact with students. Our members are training California's future responders, including nurses, doctors, medical technicians, and paramedics. They see the challenges students face during this public health crisis; and they keep the CSU's mission moving forward by teaching and providing student support via virtual platforms.

"Faculty want to hear from the Chancellor while campus administrations are making fragmented decisions without any input from students and faculty, and that needs to change," CFA President Charles Toombs said. "Decisions and communications have been inconsistent, confusing, and full of speculation. The Chancellor can and must do better."

CSU's lack of coordination and inconsistent communication became apparent this week nationally with Cal State Fullerton. CFA was surprised to read the news reports that the Fullerton administration planned to cancel classes this fall and remain virtual, before backing away from their own words a day later. Students, their families, faculty, and staff deserve better.

CFA urges caution and care when discussing plans for the future. CFA understands that the COVID-19 crisis is complex. That's why the CSU response must integrate input from all parties and be driven by data.

"Priority should be given to protecting the health and safety of all Californians, including our faculty, staff, students, and university communities," said Margarita Berta-Ávila, CFA Associate Vice President, North. "We need a strong CSU that is a force of nature. The CSU is vital to California's economic recovery from the coronavirus. The CSU has to be

reflective of the diversity that exists within the CSU with respect to race and class, gender identity, immigrant status, and more. Leadership needs to be responsive and accountable to that.”

CFA faculty, who are supporting students through family illness and financial hardship, can help the CSU make well-informed decisions moving forward. Faculty are helping students find computers and internet access. They are also teaching and counseling in their cars using wi-fi from coffee shops because the CSU and many campus administrations failed to gather faculty input and appropriately plan to provide faculty the necessary technology to move to virtual classes and programs. Despite this, CFA faculty have worked relentlessly to move instruction and support programs to digital modes.

CFA is fighting for our students to have a university to return to and wants to ensure that undocumented students and workers, who have been left out of the federal financial relief packages, continue to be part of the CSU. CFA continues to advocate for Asian and Pacific Islander faculty members and students targeted for blame and harassment, and Black faculty and students living under scrutiny and suspicion even as they suffer in this crisis in numbers that are disproportionate to their representation in the population.

CFA members must feel safe and be healthy while working. Students must have access to the CSU. Faculty must be consulted, and that consultation should include the CSU Academic Senate, campus Academic Senates, and CFA to ensure our rights, health and safety, and the quality of our students’ education going forward.

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA FACULTY ASSOCIATION: CFA represents more than 29,000 tenure-line instructional faculty, lecturers, librarians, counselors and coaches on the 23 campuses of the California State University system, from Humboldt State in the north, to San Diego State in the south. Learn more about CFA at calfac.org and visit our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages.

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