

CURRENT ISSUES

Recent Legislation

by Linda Chan

Over 200 bills that affect community colleges and over 3000 bills in total were proposed this year. Many of the bills are on immigration legislation. One bill, AB 21 by Karla, requires that all higher education institutions refrain from releasing certain information regarding the immigration status of students, faculty and staff. On the surface this looks like a good bill but it has built into it a requirement that faculty become mandatory reporters of immigration issues particularly ICE entering the campus. THIS IS DANGEROUS for our part-time faculty. You could be held responsible for information you may not know but are supposed to report. This bill makes our position even more precarious and just one more justification for administration to dismiss our faculty. CFT has taken a "watch" position on this.

There is another bill, SB 769 by Hill, that would increase the number of baccalaureate programs from 21 to 30. There are a lot of issues surrounding baccalaureate programs at the community college level (such as apportionment) so this bill is premature. CFT is taking an oppose position. Adjunct faculty have been demanding paid office hours and space for many years. CFT is

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Mission Statement

Citrus College Adjunct Faculty Federation, (CCAFF), is dedicated to serving its membership by working to:

- Assure a level of professional respect from the District reflected in its policies and practices consistent with the achievement, dedication and professionalism of its adjunct employees.
- Through contract negotiations, maximize members ability to earn a fair wage consistent with education industry standards.
- Work to provide working conditions for adjunct faculty that maximize their effective interactions with students and co-workers.

seeking to make a change in the Governor's budget to secure more funding that is dedicated to just part-time faculty office hours. We will know more after the Governor's May revision of the budget. There still is an issue about where to hold office hours and it is the belief from the Governor's office that this is a detail that must be locally negotiated. You can read the full text of the bills at www.leginfo.ca.gov.

Member Benefits

by Anne Battle

Adjuncts are a valuable resource for Citrus College, and CCAFF members are able to access benefits through the union not available to other campus groups. As part of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) we are part of a larger group that has come together to gain purchasing power to access a wide variety of programs and services for our families and ourselves.

As a member, you are entitled to discounts on your cell phone bill, on insurance, including life, income, auto and home, even your pets. Credit cards and entertainment discounts can provide lower rates on cards or allow you to save money on movie tickets and theme parks across the country. There are additional benefits available if you are looking for a rental car, a new home, or plan to travel. You are also entitled to legal help – usually for free! If shopping is your bag, your membership card provides access to AFT Advantage, a members-only online shopping site.

To find out how extensive your benefits are, you can pull your membership card out of your wallet for all the contact information to get you to the website. If you would prefer to look at a Membership Benefits booklet, we have them available in our office, CFI 323. Office hours are posted and vary day to day. We'd enjoy sharing a conversation with you and would like to help you make the most of your membership.

Bill's Beef

The Democrats have a Trust Problem

by Bill Zeman

Ever since the Democrats lost the election to Donald Trump I have repeatedly heard pundits and surrogates say they had a “messaging problem.” Hillary Clinton had a great set of policies, but she just did not get the word out they say. It is true that Hillary had to compromise with Bernie Sanders to make the “most progressive platform in Democratic Party history,” but they spoke about and advertised this much. The problem was not the message, the problem was trust. Democrats have been betraying progressive causes for the last 40 years, and the people have lost so much confidence in them that a professed socialist was so popular he could have beat Clinton if the Democratic primaries were all open. This generation's Democrats have been so bad that their voters stayed home or switched to vote for an obviously crazy, predatory, misogynist, fraudulent, dictatorial, ignorant, nativist, environment polluting Donald Trump.

What have they done you ask? Clinton deregulated Wall Street and combined with what Bush did, it led to the Great Recession. He increased the penalties for drug offenses, which led to the extremes of the prison industrial complex. He rolled back welfare for single mothers. He maintained sanctions against Iraq that prevented them from rebuilding their water purification systems and caused the death of over a million Iraqis from water-borne disease.

Was Obama better? In some ways, yes, in others, same story.

He continued the bail out of Wall Street without holding the bankers to account. He continued the failed project of the Afghan War and bombed Libya into a failed state. He did not insist on a public option for healthcare and now we are stuck with the Heritage Foundation's Romneycare. Guantanamo Bay? Still open. He increased drone attacks, which have killed hundreds of innocent people. He deported more people than any president before.

In our state the Democrats have been so lame, that the people had to pass progressive taxation to stop massive cuts to education, healthcare and many other social services. When we went to extend the taxes on the rich, we had to do it without Governor Jerry Brown's support. In the same election, we the voters gave them a super majority with which they can raise taxes. What is the first tax they pass? A regressive gas tax and vehicle license fee (VLF) on drivers. It is going to cost you a few hundred extra dollars a year per car you support, starting this November. Drivers are the working class and the middle class. You tax us and we spend less and the economy goes down. I know we needed to fix the roads, but why not do it through an oil severance tax? Even conservative Texas has one.

Even when Jerry Brown supports social programs for the poor, he always requires that they must pay something. He says “they must have skin in the game.” Jerry Brown's problem is that he has always been a rich boy born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He doesn't realize that the poor are already skinless. When you cut them, you are cutting into bone. The middle class is shrinking too and he seems oblivious to that. Does anybody remember that we recalled another Democratic gover-

nor for just such a VLF tax?

The thing that scares me is that nobody is talking about fixing the problem that got us Trump. Bernie was beating him by much more in the polls than Hillary. He would have beat him in the general election. He won just about every Democratic primary that was open. Hillary got the nomination because most of them were closed. Almost nobody is talking about opening them up in 2020. Instead the Democrats are blaming Comey and Russian email hacks. Sure, they hurt her, but it would not have been fatal if she was a quality candidate. Bernie was a winner because in those same 40 years he has never betrayed we the people.

If we are to learn a lesson from this nightmare that is the next four years under Trump, it is this: Do not support Democrats who have betrayed progressive causes, do not support the mass of leadership who drank the Kool-Aid and went for Hillary. We have a long memory of those who sold out, supposed liberal icons like Delores Huerta, Howard Dean, Randi Weingarten, Bernie Frank, and John Lewis and all the others. Lewis said, “Bernie Sanders, I don't know him.” Sure, they are all ten times better than the Republicans that want to destroy the social safety net, so we work with them when they are right and vote for them when we are faced with a greater evil, but we must pressure, pressure, pressure them to open up their party to independents and let the masses in and then we will get candidates like Bernie and Elizabeth Warren. Pols like these have big coat tails and can sweep control of congress and champion such obviously necessary and long overdue policies such as universal healthcare.

CFT Convention 2017 Speaker Highlights



Mayor Darrell Steinberg



Assemblyman Tony Thurmond



Tom Steyer

by Linda Chan

Among many speakers was former Senate President pro Tempore and current Mayor Darrell Steinberg who talked about the millionaire's tax. He addressed education and wishes to "make sure every kid has access as well as a welcoming place (schools) for kids and parents". He also addressed homelessness in Sacramento as a tragedy and is committed to get 2000 off the streets. He wants to invest in school-based mental health services.

Assemblyman Tony Thurmond talked about hunger and immigration issues. He is currently working on a bill to make it easier to enroll in the reduced and free lunch program. He also talked about the need to compensate educators better and to have affordable housing for educators. He talked about SB 45 School Employee Housing of which CFT is a co-sponsor. The idea is to create a permanent source for funding for affordable housing. "Community College is a great treasure. We have to invest in it."

Tom Steyer addressed the convention with a call to invest in public schools, respect for teachers and



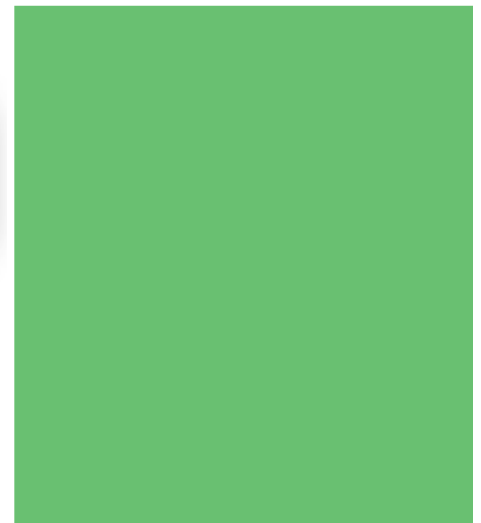
Loretta Johnson

staff, better wages and a right to organize. He said that Trump is going to never represent the majority. "Civic engagement is the bedrock of democracy" and that "our activism is the very definition of patriotism".

AFT Secretary-Treasurer Loretta Johnson talked about how she struggled to become a union leader. She said "we will win if we make the choice to work together" and she advocated for "the power of solidarity, the power of democracy." She also stressed that we must empower our members and our community. "You don't have to do it the way I did it... but get it done."



CFT march on Sacramento to prevent deportation of students and families



The Erosion of Academic Freedom

by Linda Chan

Recent events in Orange County have led many faculty members to re-examine the idea of academic freedom. Just how can faculty prevent the loss of freedom of speech and academic freedom with the advent of an increasing online presence in the classroom? Most recently a student recorded a faculty member's reaction to the 2016 presidential election without the faculty member's knowledge, which proceeded to become viral through social media. From there it became a domino effect that adversely disrupted the faculty member's class and personal life. Education code prohibits the recording of a faculty member without their consent, however, there is little to protect them once the illegally obtained information is in the public eye. Academic freedom is not freedom of speech; many court cases have separated the two ideals. Academic freedom does allow faculty members to discuss their subject matter in the classroom without institutional censorship, after all, the idea behind university was to have a free flow and exchange of thought. However, in this current social climate faculty are forced to carefully choose their words or even suppress their ideas. A recent CFT resolution



Assignment Load Under ACA

by Mark Wessel

For those adjuncts confused about how many classes they may teach without exceeding the maximum number of hours allowable under the Affordable Care Act, the following formula is used by the administration: Hours for adjunct faculty are averaged over the entire academic year (16 weeks fall, 8 weeks winter, 16 weeks spring and 6 weeks summer). To determine the hours worked each week, the total hours assigned is multiplied by 2.25. Thus, an adjunct assigned two load factor one (3 unit classes) would have 13.5 hours. To this .5 hours of office time is added for a total of 14 hours per week. If the person is assigned any other ancillary duties, any such hours are also included.

AFFILIATIONS

Citrus College Adjunct Faculty Federation (CCAFF) maintains an affiliation with:

- The American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- The California Federation of Teachers (CFT)
- AFL-CIO
- The California Labor Federation
- The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor

passed at the 2017 CFT Convention asks CFT to support legislation that would prohibit administrators from evaluating, disciplining, or hiring faculty based on recorded information that was obtained in the classroom without the faculty member's permission or knowledge. It is imperative that academic freedom and freedom of speech be preserved in the classroom setting and context. In the meantime, how do faculty members protect themselves in the face of public trial for a casual, or even perhaps careless, utterance of opinion? One step you can take (and it is strongly encouraged) is to have a written policy on recordings in the classroom in your syllabus. We need to remain ever vigilant and protect our academic freedom and stand up for our rights.