

## CURRENT ISSUES

### Legislation to Watch

by Linda Chan

Representation Officer and C.O.P.E. Director

At the CFT convention we were able to pass two very important resolutions authored by your very own C.O.P.E. director. The first resolution is for sabbatical leave or long term medical leave replacement. It directs the CFT to pursue legislation that would replace full-time instructors on sabbatical or long term medical leave with part-time faculty within their department rather than hire from outside. This is important since it would provide part-timers with the full-time experience many hiring committees are looking for when considering a candidate. The second resolution directs the CFT to pursue legislation to create a career path or conversion from part-time to full-time. This would help those part-timers seeking to become full-time rather than waiting for years to get a chance to become a full-time employee.

There is much legislation of interest to the education community since the Student Success Task Force made its recommendations. CFT is watching the following:

**SB 520 (Steinberg) Student Instruction: State Online Student Access** This requires the UC President, the CSU Chancellor and Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, jointly with each of their academic senates, (note: This a first time directive towards the State Academic Senate and is not well received), to develop and administer the California Online Student Access Platform to facilitate partnerships, including partnerships between private online vendors and faculty members of the three systems. The Intention is to develop and deploy online options for oversubscribed lower division courses. The idea is to take 50 of the oversubscribed courses (such as developmental math and English) and let outside vendors facilitate these courses for a fee. There is great concern over the accreditation and credential process for these vendors. CFT recommends: oppose.

**AB 950 (Chau) Community Colleges: Full-Time Instructors** - This will limit how much overload a full-time instructor may take. The entire load

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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.

would be 150%. There is much opposition from the other unions and associations. This is a CFT sponsored bill. It recommends: support. **AB 955 (Williams) Community Colleges: Intersession Extension Program** - This would allow the community colleges to offer an extension program during inter-sessions at whatever fee they wish to charge. This would create a two-tiered system of fees for the same courses. CFT recommends: oppose.

**AB 1199 (Fong) Community Colleges Funding Stability** - If a college is put on "Show Cause" or "Probation" sanction by an accrediting agency resulting in enrollment decline, it will be allowed to have funding stabilized over a three year period if a new revenue source is available. CFT is sponsoring this bill and recommends: support. (Note: Fong is an incredible friend to CFT and faculty.)

**SB 173 (Liu) Education Funding: Adult Education and Noncredit Programs** - Removes the authorization for parenting, older adults, home economics, and health and safety education courses to receive state funding and authorizes fees for non-credit courses and moves adult education in K-12 and non-credit in community

colleges towards performance-based funding. CFT recommends: oppose unless amended.

**SB 241 (Evans) Oil Severance Tax Law** - Imposes an oil severance tax. (we're one of the few states who have not done this) and the revenues go towards UC's, CSU's and the community colleges. CFT recommends: support.

**SB 647 (Block) Public Postsecondary Education: Online Courses** - Requires the UC President, the CSU Chancellor and Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, to jointly identify online courses in areas defined as high demand transferable lower division courses. CFT recommends: support if amended.

**SB 705 (Block) Community Colleges: Appropriations** - Appropriates \$50 million in funds for the anticipated deferral buy-down for allocation to DSPS and EOPS for \$25 million each. CFT recommends: support

**SB 813 (Galgiani) Increase Percentage of Full-Time Faculty in Community Colleges** - When fully developed, creates financial incentives for community college districts to reach the 75:25 ratio of full-time to part-time FTEF (Full-Time Equivalent Faculty). CFT is sponsoring this bill and recommends: support.

**ACCJC, (Accrediting Commission Community and Junior Colleges), gone wild** - A complaint to the ACCJC was delivered by the CFT. The complaint points out that the ACCJC is not focused on quality of education as mandated by law but has been focused on administration. It is recommended that we put public pressure on the ACCJC. Between the years of 2003 and 2008 there were 126 sanctions made by the six national accrediting agencies of which 112 were from the ACCJC. From June 2003 to June 2012 the ACCJC issued 64% of the sanctions to California community colleges where California only represents 19% of the nation's community colleges. Of the sanctions, 20 were for governing boards, 14 were for financial mismanagement and 30 were for staffing (not enough administrators). None of them were for outcomes and education quality.

The CCAFF Board encourages you to let your elected representatives know how you feel about these important pieces of pending legislation. If you don't know your legislator you can find this information at:

[www.findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov).

## Bill's Beef

### Union Sponsored Proposition 30 Added Classes at Citrus: What's Next?

by Bill Zeman

To their credit, the Citrus College administration promised that if Prop. 30 passed they would add 165 classes in the Spring of 2013. They kept their word and not only added these, but increased the Winter and Summer loads and they are planning on a fat Fall. This is great for students who are having an easier time getting classes, but it has been nice for adjuncts too. Many of us have had Winter and Summer classes for the first time since before the Great Recession.

Thank you to all of you who voted for and campaigned for Prop. 30! Citrus College is a direct beneficiary of progressive taxation. Your dues paid to get this done. We send about half our collected dues to the California Federation of Teachers (CFT). The CFT was the leading civic society in making Prop. 30 happen. They spent millions of dollars and all their staff on it. So what's next? The leadership of the union has been saying that Prop. 30 was only the first step in properly funding public education.

I recently attended a Progressive Taxation Workshop at the CFT Annual Convention. The union is planning on sponsoring several more progressive taxes and on closing loop holes for wealthy individuals and corporations. The biggest project will be to close the Business Loophole of Proposition 13.

The front page of the LA Times on May 5th 2013 had an article called "Corporations get big edge in Prop. 13 quirk. LA Times reporters Jason Felch and Jack Dolan provide the details about how Michael Dell (founder of Dell Computers) has used the loop hole to pay about \$1 million less a year

in property taxes since he purchased the Santa Monica Hotel in 2006.

According to Proposition 13, properties are only reassessed when they change ownership. Assessed values can rise 2% a year, but in many years since Proposition 13 was passed values have risen much more. Assessed values for commercial property have lagged because businesses can avoid reassessment by placing the property in a corporation and then just selling the corporation and not the property.

Since Proposition 13 passed in 1978, rich commercial property owners have paid less and less of the total of property taxes. In Los Angeles County homeowners have gone from paying 40% of the total in 1975 to 57% today. Property taxes are the main way education is funded and the total revenues have declined precipitously since the 1970s.

For years people have promoted a "split roll" in which commercial properties would be reassessed periodically regardless of their ownership. A December poll by the Public Policy Institute of California found that 58% of likely voters favored the split roll. That's about where Prop 30 polled before it was passed. Closing this loop hole would generate about \$5 billion more per year.

What's not to like? Do any of you readers own commercial properties? If you do, the chances are that you are so wealthy you can afford to pay more of your fair share. The business owners say that California is already overtaxed and some erroneously claim that we are already causing a business exodus from California. They publish the name and stories of every business that leaves, but they never include the fact that more businesses are started or relocated to California every year than leave. California is the 5th largest economy in the world. Our businesses can afford to pay their fair share of property taxes.

## ELECTION RESULTS

CCAFF elections took place May 16. The vote to accept the tentative agreement with the District and the 2% salary increase passed.

The results of officer elections are as follows: Bill Zeman, Anne Battle and Linda Chan will continue serving as President, Vice-President and Representation Officer, respectively. Mark Wessel will serve in the combined role as Secretary/Treasurer.

## Use Your Union Benefits

by Anne Battle

So – you have an AFT union card to carry around in your wallet. Do you have any idea about what opportunities there are for you to make use of it? If you haven't already gotten one, you should request an AFT + 2012-2013 Member Benefits booklet. You'll find a wealth of money saving ideas lurking inside. There are a few listed below to whet your appetite.

If you are an AT&T subscriber, you can get up to 15% off your wireless phone plans. Need a new computer? Dell is one of the many vendors who work to save members money when you go online: [www.unionplus.org/computers](http://www.unionplus.org/computers).

Chase offers one of the most popular benefits. They offer special programs for first-time buyers and members, on average save nearly \$500 on closing costs.

AFT MasterCard can save you money. There is no annual fee and offers low rate balance transfers. The interest rate you receive is based on your credit history and there is 100 percent fraud protection.

Like to travel? You have several options including booking with Go Ahead Tours at a discounted rate (\$200 off any Go Ahead tour package). Wyndham hotels will give you a 20 percent discount off the best available unrestricted rate at more than 6400 participating hotels worldwide with advance reservations.

Discounted rental cars are available from Alamo, Avis, Budget and National. Rent a truck and get 20 percent off. Allied Van Lines offers member discounts on interstate moving, packing and in-transit storage.

AFT Advantage gives you and your family exclusive access to an online shopping program. You are able to save up to 70 percent on electronics, apparel, home furnishings, tickets, flowers, gifts and much more.

There are many more "perks" to be had by simply going to [aft.org/members](http://aft.org/members) and registering online to make sure your card has been activated. If you have questions about your AFT membership card, e-mail [membership@aft.org](mailto:membership@aft.org) or call 1-888-238-5646 (1-888-AFT-JOIN).

Whatever you do, don't give your union membership card a free ride in your wallet. Take it out and make it work for you!

## 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