

CURRENT ISSUES

Legislation to Watch

by Linda Chan

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

The Citrus College Trustee election is now behind us. Together with the CCFA we endorsed Barbara Dickerson who successfully challenged Gary Woods for the Azusa seat. We are eagerly looking forward to her participation in the governance of our college. There are additional political issues to be aware of. Here are the top ten that CFT is currently watching:

SB 520 (Steinberg) Student Instruction - State Online Student Access-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. It intends to develop and deploy online options for over-subscribed lower division courses. The idea is to take 50 of the over-subscribed 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 credentialing of the vendors. CFT recommends oppose

AB 806 (Wilk) Community Colleges: 50 Percent Law - This law would include the salaries of counselors, instructional aides and their health benefits in the 50 Percent Law. CFT recommends oppose. Status: held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 950 (Chau) Community Colleges / Full-Time Instructors -

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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.

This will limit how much overload a full-time instructor may take. CFT sponsored bill. Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.
AB 955 (Williams) Community Colleges: Intersession Extension Program - This would allow the community colleges to offer an extension program during the intersessions at whatever fee they wish to charge. Only Long Beach City College is currently affected by this bill. CFT recommends oppose Status: Signed by Governor.

AB 1199 (Fong) Community Colleges Funding Stability - If a college is put on "Show Cause" or "Probation" sanction by an accrediting agency which then will experience enrollment decline will be allowed to have funding stabilized over a three year period if a new revenue source is available.

CFT is sponsoring this bill. Note: Fong is an incredible friend to CFT and faculty. Status: Two-year bill.

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. Status: Two-year bill,
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. Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.
SB 547 (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.

Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

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 Status: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

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. Status: Two-year bill. Write your congressman! Don't know who your congressman or representative is? Go to www.findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov Responding to any bill is only a few mouse clicks away.

Bill's Beef

Why Social Programs for the Poor are Good for Everybody

by Bill Zeman

Last week on November 1st, food stamps were cut. According to the LA Times on Nov. 2, this will affect 47 million Americans, 4.2 million Californians and 1.1 million people right here in L.A. County. As adjuncts we are paid better than Walmart or McDonalds workers, so if we have enough classes, we don't qualify for foods stamps like they do, so apart from concern for fairness and the plight of the poor, why should we care?

As I teach history from year to year, more and more, I end up emphasizing basic economic concepts to help my students understand the import of historical political and social events. The economic concept of the virtuous circle is the key to understanding why wealth redistribution is beneficial to everyone in society.

The virtuous circle is a chain of events starting by one beneficial economic action that creates a succession of beneficial events that circle around and increases the benefits of the first action and then the actions go around again in a continuous circle creating ever-increasing prosperity. Food stamps are an example of an event that causes the virtuous circle.

The government takes tax money from the wealthier and gives it to the poor in the forms of a debit card that is good for buying food. This not only provides money for the food stamp recipients, but the farmers who sell food do more business because people who would not have been able to afford it buy food. This also increases gross sales for grocery stores. This creates more jobs in farming and grocery stores and the extra workers created by food stamps spend their money in the economy and increase gross do-

mestic product, (GDP). Farms and grocery stores have owners and the owners make more profits because of food stamps. Most of these owners pay various taxes as a part of their profits that continue to fund the government so they can keep giving the poor money to buy food. See the circle?

How does this help us? Some of these folks who have jobs because of the food stamps programs will be looking to improve themselves and can afford classes at community college because they are employed. See where this is going? The more students, the more teachers are needed. The more teachers the more classes for adjuncts. That is why you should care.

All social programs that distribute money to the poor and the middle class are similarly good for GDP because these spend just about all they get.

This is not just my opinion or theory. The LA Times reported that, "many local businesses will be hurt as well, because California's food stamp recipients will be spending \$46 million less per month in local stores." Economists are in consensus about how the virtuous circle functions. I am continually shocked by how many otherwise well-educated people don't understand this. Most have just not been taught, others have heard of it, but are in denial; this is akin to the people who think man-made global warming does not exist or is not a problem.

The arguments against this are only supported and fueled by false platitudes that are generated by blinding ideologies. I will address the most common: food stamps are bad because there are so many who take them who are not truly eligible. This is a myth. Levels of fraud are a very small percentage of the program. This confirmed by a Fox News article written about the food stamp cuts on November 4, 2013: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/11/04/first-joint-house-and-senate-talks-on-bill-including-sharp-cuts-to-food-stamps/> Levels of fraud are low in all welfare. The use of this argument against social programs is a red herring.

Another lying belief is that taxing the rich is bad because it destroys jobs and they will all leave. Not true. We taxed the rich with a top tax rate of over 90% for over 30 of our most prosperous years in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s and there was no mass exodus of rich people. Taxing the rich is even good for them. History also shows that when wealth disparity increases without redistribution, recession, depression, social disturbance, and revolution plague everybody - even the rich Space does not allow me to ad-

dress other false beliefs that support ideologies against social programs, but they are not backed by academia.

Dues Times Two or Three?

by Mark Wessel

More than once the question has been asked in humour most foul, "I'm already paying union dues at the other campus I work at - why am I expected to pay them at Citrus as well?" In fact I remember asking the same thing. It just didn't seem fair that the meager income I was scratching out while shuttling between campuses, trying to fill out something close to a full teaching schedule, was to be plundered by the very organization that was supposed to be protecting me. In my case I was a member of California Federation of Teachers already, and yet I was being asked to join again. What the Heck?! Sounded like a plot to me.

But there is a reason that ended up appeasing my sense of justice. I didn't understand that each district negotiates individual contracts with its work force. When we accept assignments with different districts, we also accept different employment contracts that have been negotiated by our colleagues in these individual districts. Each Local, (in this case AFT 6352), pays dues to American Federation of Teachers, California Federation of Teachers and AFL-CIO for the benefits of their greater influence and guidance, (not to mention perks like a wide variety of discounts on goods and services available to members). But specific agreements with employers over working conditions and salary are bargained for by your colleagues at Citrus College and wherever else you may be employed. The time it takes to do this, the time it takes to represent you in any contractual dispute that may arise, the time it takes to maintain the functional organization of the local - are what your 1.8% payroll deductions are paying for. In addition to previously negotiated improvements to contractual protections this representation earned you a 2% increase during the last salary negotiations. Your CCAFF Executive Board continues working on your behalf, seeking to strengthen contractual language that safeguards your welfare and enhances your experience as an employee of Citrus College.

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