

October 24, 2012

Board of Trustees
California State University
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: CFA Resolution Against New Student Fees Proposed by the CSU Board of Trustees

Dear Board of Trustees:

CFA stands with our CSU students in voicing strong objection to the Board's continued fee and tuition increases – most recently, three student fees proposed by the Board of Trustees for the 2013-2014 academic year: the Graduation Incentive Fee for resident undergraduates; the Course Repeat Fee for resident undergraduates; and the Added Unit Fee for resident undergraduates.

At our recent 77th Delegate Assembly CFA unanimously passed the enclosed Resolution against those proposed fees.

We cannot stress enough the negative impact these additional costs will have on students who are already struggling to keep up with fees that have continued to rise, to the point where they are now 318% higher than they were in 2002 (when major state funding cuts began).

Our economy – and California in particular – remains in crisis. We cannot hope to rise above this crisis unless we focus on putting in place those mechanisms that will move our state towards success in the larger economy. Higher education is a proven path to economic prosperity. We must not always look to our students and our hard working CSU employees for solutions to the system's budget problems.

CFA strongly urges the members of the CSU Board of Trustees to vote against any of the proposed fees at their upcoming meetings.

Sincerely,



Lillian Taiz
CFA President

:tmg
Enclosure



Resolution Against New Student Fees Proposed by the CSU Board of Trustees

WHEREAS the State of California establishes (66010.2.) that the public elementary and secondary schools, the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and independent institutions of higher education share goals designed to provide educational opportunity and success to the broadest possible range of our citizens, and shall provide the following:

- (a) Access to education, and the opportunity for educational success, for all qualified Californians;
- (b) Quality teaching and programs of excellence for their students;
- (c) Education equity not only through a diverse and representative student body and faculty but also through educational environments in which each person, regardless of race, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, or economic circumstances, has a reasonable chance to fully develop his or her potential; and

WHEREAS the California State University Board of Trustees is proposing to impose three student fees for the 2013-2014 academic year; and

WHEREAS the first proposed fee will be the Graduation Incentive Fee for resident undergraduates, which would increase the fee per unit by \$372 for every unit surpassing 150 semester and quarter units; and

WHEREAS the second proposed fee will be the Course Repeat Fee for resident undergraduates, which would increase the fee per unit of repeated courses by one-sixteenth of the semester and quarter tuition fee, \$100 per unit; and

WHEREAS the third proposed fee will be the Added Unit Fee for resident undergraduates, which would increase the fee per unit by one-thirteenth of the semester tuition fee for every unit beyond 16 units in a semester and quarter, \$200 per unit; and

WHEREAS the Graduation Incentive Fee is an added detriment to all students attempting to further their education, especially science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors, double majors, transfer students with high unit majors, and students impacted by work, family and transfer considerations; and

WHEREAS the Court Repeat Fee is also an added detriment to all students who are attempting to retake a class; and

WHEREAS the Added Unit Fee is another detriment to all students because it makes it more difficult for students to graduate within a desired time period; and

WHEREAS these fees will take away from the affordability and quality of the CSU; and

WHEREAS “the CSU also reaches out to California’s growing, underserved communities, offering affordable opportunities to pursue a college degree that enables students from diverse backgrounds to succeed. The CSU provides more than half of all undergraduate degrees granted to California’s Latino, African American and Native American students.” (California State University Annual Factbook 2012); and

WHEREAS these fees will fall disproportionately on students who are forced to repeat courses or delay graduation due to circumstances that greatly affect economically disadvantaged students, and be disproportionately burdensome upon them; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the CFA Board of Directors express absolute disapproval and opposition to these student fees; and be it further

RESOLVED that the fees should be charged to students equitably, and never in a manner that disadvantages students already underrepresented; and be it further

RESOLVED that fees should only be assessed for the purpose of paying for services rendered to students, and never for the purpose of incentivizing and modifying student behavior in matriculating through the academy; and be it further

RESOLVED that the CFA Board of Directors strongly urge the members of the CSU Board of Trustees to vote against any of the proposed fees and the copies of this resolution be sent to the CSU Board of Trustees in advance of its November 13-14 meeting; and be it

THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that CFA coordinate with Students for Quality Education (SQE) to promote and develop actions that would draw attention to these fees prior to the November 13-14 CSU Board of Trustees Meeting.

PASSED BY the CFA Peace & Justice Committee, the African American Caucus, and The Council for Affirmative Action.

Approved by the
CFA Assembly, October 2012