



Standing Room Only

Chapter 579

Executive Board

Marti Reiter

President

Sean Small

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Judy Arroyo

Secretary

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Treasurer

Tom Andrews

CPRO

Presidents Message

My office is now a victim of the hiring freeze and upper management's lack of understanding the devastating effect a freeze can have. I am covering an office area that has one person out on sick leave and a vacant position because one person retired in December. The district is so benevolent they have asked a previous employee to come in for 19 hours per week to help out. It's interesting, no change that word to disgusting, that the district thinks 19 hours of work compensates for 80 hours. Maybe the math I was taught is different from the 'new math' used by the district. This is not the decision of the Director, but a decision being made by the 4th floor gurus. Working under a lot of stress has become the 'norm' for classified.

I am concerned about the additional cuts that are being made by the state and anticipate that some additional programs will be cut. All we can do is work our 8 hours and go home and try not to think about a district Board of Trustees that seems bent on self gratification at the expense of the rank and file employees.

See you at the next Chapter meeting.
Marti

Chapter 579 Job Stewards: Here to help you !!!

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Chancellor Jack Scott Resigns

Jack Scott, a veteran and popular educator who has headed the state's community college system during a period of brutal budget cuts and was often a voice decrying the impact on low-income students, announced Tuesday that he would retire as chancellor overseeing the 112 campuses. Scott, who is 78, said his retirement will be effective Sept. 1.

Scott became chancellor of the loosely knit community college system in January 2009 after a long career as a Democratic politician and college campus leader. He served in the state Legislature in both the Senate and the Assembly representing the Pasadena, Glendale and Burbank areas for 12 years until 2000, and he previously was president of Pasadena City College and Cypress College.

In a statement released Tuesday, Scott mentioned the state budget cuts that have led to reduced course offerings and long waiting lists for students to get into the classes they need. "It is true that it has been a tough time for community colleges because of the financial difficulties of the state of California," he said. But he added that he was proud to have represented the colleges before the Legislature and many other audiences.

Among his accomplishments was a streamlining of the transfer process, making it easier for graduates of the two-year-schools to move on to four-year universities.

Scott Himelstein, president of the community colleges board of governors, praised Scott and thanked him for his leadership. "Chancellor Scott's passion and commitment to community colleges will be evident in the success of our colleges for generations to come." He said the search for a successor to Scott would start immediately.

Chapter 579 News

The February Chapter 579 meeting was held at OEC. Chapter meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month on a rotational basis. The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 20th, at CEC. The next meeting will be held at SCC, then SAC, then OEC, and so on. The meeting started on time, and we were waiting for our Board of Trustee President, Mr. Phil Yarbrough, to come and speak to our members. Unfortunately he had a last minute engagement and had to cancel his plans to speak to us. A big thank you to all of the members who reached out to help our sister in need, Pat Carpenter. The aid you gave to her and her family was deeply needed and appreciated. Way to go !!!

We need some of you to step up to the plate and take a more active roll in our chapter. We need job stewards all over the district, but especially at SCC. Please contact me (CPRO) by email if you are interested in becoming involved. We will be a stronger chapter if more people get training and start to lead us forward.



States May Tap Mortgage Money to Fill Budget Gaps

The ink wasn't even dry on a settlement with the nation's top mortgage lenders when Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon laid claim to a chunk of the money to avert a huge budget cut for public colleges and universities.

He's not the only politician eyeing the cash for purposes that have nothing to do with foreclosure. Like a pot of gold in a barren field, the \$25 billion deal offers a tempting and timely source of funding for state governments with multimillion-dollar budget gaps.

Although most of the money goes directly to homeowners affected by the mortgage crisis, the settlement announced this month by attorneys general in 49 states includes nearly \$2.7 billion for state governments to spend as they wish.

Some are pledging to use it as relief for struggling homeowners or to help related initiatives such as a Michigan plan to assist children left homeless by foreclosures. But several states are already planning to divert at least some of the money to prop up their budgets, and more will be wrestling with those decisions in the coming weeks.

Read more: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2012/02/22/national/a132351S70.DTL#ixzz1oeqogBjS>

Community College Cuts

When the state's "trigger cuts" were activated in December due to lower than expected revenues, California's community college system lost another \$102 million in funding and student fees increased to \$46 per unit.

According to California Community Colleges Board of Governors member Danny Hawkins, most of the 72 community college districts statewide adequately prepared for the possibility of these cuts being enacted. However, Hawkins said other unexpected issues have a potential for significant impact. He said the state department of finance overestimated student enrollment fee income, which could greatly impact the college system.

"The Chancellor's Office estimated a \$25-million shortfall, which has now grown to \$100 million, and potentially \$108 million," said Hawkins, who also serves as the CSEA Community College Committee chairperson. "These shortfalls could add up to \$3 million or more per district."

The \$10 per unit fee hike imposed on students means that community college fees have increased 57 percent since last spring. Hawkins said that economically disadvantaged students will be impacted most by the increase, but noted that the community college system is "still the best educational deal in the country."

In addition to ongoing funding issues, the community college system is proposing a series of reforms to change the way that students register for classes, establish education plans and set goals. The Board of Governors endorsed the recommendations in the Student Success Task Force report. Legislation will be introduced by Feb. 24. The report is available online at www.cccco.edu.

CSEA is working with other Community College stakeholders to educate legislators about the devastating impact that these reductions will have and urging them to restore the funding. You can help our efforts by taking a few minutes of your time to call your state Assembly member and your state Senator. Urge your legislators to restore the unanticipated cuts.

CPRO's Corner some thoughts from Robert Reich

Last week Rick Santorum called the President “a snob” for wanting everyone to get a college education (in fact, Obama never actually called for universal college education but only for a year or more of training after high school). Santorum needn't worry. America is already making it harder for young people of modest means to attend college. Public higher education is being starved, and the middle class will shrink even more as a result. Over just the last year 41 states have cut spending for public higher education. That's on top of deep cuts in 2009 and 2010. Some public universities, such as the University of New Hampshire, have lost over 40 percent of their state funding; the University of Washington, 26 percent; Florida's public university system, 25 percent. Rising tuition and fees are making up the shortfall. This year, the average hike is 8.3 percent. New York's state university system is increasing tuition 14 percent; Arizona, 17 percent; Washington state, 16 percent. **Students in California's public universities and colleges are facing an average increase of 21 percent, the highest in the nation** Public higher education has been the gateway to the middle class but that gate is shutting – just when income and wealth are more concentrated at the top than they've been since the 1920s, and when America needs the brainpower of its young people more than ever.

This is nuts.

But public higher education isn't just a private investment. It's a public good. Our young people — their capacities to think, understand, investigate, and innovate — are America's future. We used to understand this. During the great expansion of public higher education from the 1950s to the 1970s, tuition at public universities averaged about 4 percent of median family income (compared to around 20 percent at private universities). But starting in the 1980s, as in so many other areas of American life, we took a U-turn. Tuition at public universities began climbing. By 2005, it was more than 10 percent of median annual family income. Now it's approaching 25 percent – still a good deal relative to private universities (where it's nearly 70 percent), but high enough to discourage many qualified young people from attending. A big part of the answer has to be more government support for public education at all levels. This requires more tax revenues – especially from Americans who are best able to pay. Most Americans still believe in the ideal of equal opportunity. And most harbor the patriotic notion that we have responsibilities to one another as members of the same society. A pending initiative in California would raise taxes on millionaires and use the proceeds to fund public education at all levels. It's a good idea, and it comes at the right time. Other states should follow.

