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Inside this issue:

Legislatures Shouldn't Write Curriculum: AB1705 Requires Revision!	1
Citizen Science Projects	1
From the Past President	2
From the New President	2
Executive Director's Report	3
CFA Report: 99th General Assembly Resolutions	4
Legislative Report: CalPERS Return	4
"The Longevity Diaries: About Aging Gracefully"	5
"I FERP, Therefore I Am"	5
ASCSU Report: Many Issues for the September Meeting	6
Papers on Truth-Telling versus Propaganda, Exposing the Rift from the AAUP	7
In Memoriam	7
CSU-ERFSA New Members	8
Fall Book Reviews	9
Historic Numbers Live By Themselves As They Age	10
New CSU Strategic Planning Process	12
Personal and Professional	12

Legislatures Shouldn't Write Curriculum: AB1705 Needs Revision!

By Richard Ford, Prof. Emeritus of Math, CSU Chico

AB 1705 was passed without dissent by the legislature and signed into law in September, 2022. Without revisions this law will erode equity and the quality of community college STEM education. It will remove the "second chance" underprepared and under-resourced students currently enjoy. Problems with the law include unworkable course benefit verifications, compulsory misinformation, and absurd student assessment restrictions.

Course Benefit Verifications. Section 78213-(f)(1) of the law provides that no college can enroll a STEM major into any calculus *prerequisite* unless three "benefits" are verified:

1. The student is highly unlikely to succeed in the first STEM calculus course without the additional transfer-level preparation.
2. The enrollment will improve the student's probability of completing the first STEM calculus course.
3. The enrollment will improve the student's persistence to and completion of the second calculus course in the STEM program, if a second calculus course is required.

The RP Group did a comprehensive

(Continued on page 8)

Citizen Science Projects

By Bethany Shifflett, SJSU, CSU-ERFSA Secretary

An interesting article by Erin Wayman in a 2022 issue of *Science News* (<https://tinyurl.com/3kk9z467>) had information on "Citizen Science" projects. I was particularly intrigued with the one focused on studying the sun. It's on my to-do list to check out and get involved.

Researchers from a range of disciplines rely on the power of crowdsourcing to collect and analyze data. From transcribing weather logs dating back to the Victorian era to classifying African animals caught by camera traps. Here are a few projects from the article that might be of interest.

Solar Jet Hunter. AIM: Build a database of solar jets. HOW TO HELP: NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, or SDO, has

been monitoring the sun's activity for more than a decade. Studying the sun's outbursts, including the narrow jets of plasma that erupt from the surface, will help scientists better understand space weather and crack solar mysteries. But first, researchers need to find those jets. That's where you and other armchair astronomers come in. Just go online, review sequences of SDO images, determine if solar jets are visible and document details about the events. In addition to helping scientists study the sun, the dataset could help create a computer program that could speed up future solar jet identifications. Start hunting at

(Continued on page 3)

CSU-Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association
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From the Past President

Dear Colleagues,

It is with mixed emotions that I write my last column as the President of CSU-ERFSA. I am pleased that I have been able to direct the organization over the past five+ years, but am sorry that I could not have done more in terms of increasing our membership. Our organization managed to weather the pandemic without the need to increase our monthly dues and, while we lost members due to their demise, we were able to attract new members to mitigate most of this decline.

Much of this is due to our remarkable staff: Merry Pawlowski, Executive Director; Ted Anagnoson, Reporter Editor; Melanie Mamakos, Office Manager and Mark Shapiro, Webmaster. Thanks also to our committee chairs: Ed Aubert for Membership; Robert Girling for Legislative; Tom Krabacher for Health Benefits; and Marshelle Thobaben for Grants. I also wish to thank others who served as committee chairs during my

term of office, including Alan Wade in Legislation, David Wagner in Health Benefits, and Tom Donahue in Pre- and Post-Retirement. I am probably overlooking some people so my apologies in advance for the oversight, and I should probably thank Ed twice as he and the membership committee played a key role in our ability to maintain our membership during the time of COVID.

I am extremely pleased that our vice-president, Sue Holl, agreed to step in to assume the role of president. I have had the privilege of serving with Sue for several years on the ASCSU and know that she will do a wonderful job as president.

My best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy 2025.

Barry Alan Pasternack
 Emeritus Professor - Information Systems & Decision Sciences
 CSU Fullerton

From the New President

Dear Colleagues,

As this is my first President's Report, let me give you a brief introduction. My name is Sue Holl. I retired as a Professor of Materials Science from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, CSU Sacramento. I was very active on my campus in shared governance at all levels, and served on the ASCSU where I had the pleasure to work closely with Barry Pasternack as a senate colleague. I picked up the passion for CSU-ERFSA from Barry and some of our other colleagues, Harold Goldwhite and Bill Blischke, both of whom were regular attendees at the ASCSU.

I joined CSU-ERFSA when I retired and was recruited to serve as the representative from my campus to the State Council, after which I became a member of the executive committee, serving as treasurer. I have also served as vice president and as Barry moves into the past president role, we are following the tradition of having the vice president assume the presidency until the next elections in spring 2025. We all owe a huge "thank you!" to Barry for his extensive service. I hope you will reach out to Barry to join me in thanking him

for his service and welcome him into this very important and much needed new role of past president.

On October 22, 2024 the CSU-ERFSA State Council met via zoom. We are hoping to have our spring State Council meeting in-person. The meeting was well attended, and representatives exchanged news before the meeting. A call was made for any photos from your campus affiliate that can be posted on the CSU-ERFSA website.

The Association is healthy. We have an active and engaged executive committee which works closely with our Executive Director Merry Pawlowski. You may have noticed our wonderful new website which was needed after our disentanglement from AMBIA/AMBA (many thanks to Stephanie Coopman for this work). The research grant program to provide support for members' research and scholarly work is fully funded. We are continuing our efforts to increase the effectiveness of our communications with CFA and the ASCSU

(Continued on page 3)

Executive Director's Report

By Merry Pawlowski, Executive Director, CSU-ERFSA

I'd like to begin by giving a warm welcome to our incoming President Sue Holl. Sue has been an active force in the organization and in her own vibrant affiliate for years and brings enormous energy and passion to her new position. Barry Pasternack, now our immediate past president, has given years of service to this organization and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his efforts to promote CSU-ERFSA's advocacy for CSU retirees. I look forward to a close working relationship with Sue and personally thank Barry for supporting me in my role as executive director for the past two and a half years.

In my own efforts to build membership, I continue to reach out to our affiliates and visit campuses wherever possible. Melanie and I are especially grateful to the support we've received from CSUN's retiree affiliate the Association of Retired Faculty (ARF) – with the help of ARF's board of directors a few months ago, we were able to retain our offices at CSUN. To show our

appreciation, we hosted a luncheon for the ARF board members on October 21st at The Orchard on CSUN's campus. The venue was terrific, the sandwich board was beautifully done, and we had a great time chatting with the board members, answering their questions, and gathering ideas about recruitment for CSU-ERFSA. In December, I'll join the CSU Fullerton affiliate for their holiday luncheon and will report on that in a subsequent issue of *The Reporter*. I'm happy to come to your affiliate when you have an event you'd like me to attend.

Our next state council meeting will take place in April, date and location to be determined. I want to urge each of our affiliates to commit to a hybrid meeting with in-person and virtual attendees. I feel that meeting in person as we've done for so many years before the pandemic will help us reconnect as a community and re-energize our commitment to growing our organization.

From the New President

(Continued from page 2)

through our liaisons, and we are actively engaging with Prof. Darlene Yee-Melichar, the CSU faculty trustee. Some of the important items we heard about were the planned integration of the Maritime Academy with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, the proposal from the community colleges to offer BS in Nursing degrees, and a proposal from Arizona State University to create "brick-and-mortar" facilities in California and charge only in-state tuition. One way CSU-ERFSA members can have our voices heard is to write to each of our legislators to explain our feelings on these controversial topics.

We are always working to grow our membership and discussed various ideas (a half-price sale for new members and broadening eligibility for Associate Membership), increasing communication with the campus affiliates, and continuing to provide accessible information about who we are and the value of CSU-ERFSA to the members and our community.

Often it is the case that our colleagues

don't know about CSU-ERFSA, and sometimes they confuse CSU-ERFSA with the campus affiliates. We would like to know what you think about how we can continue to increase our visibility and our membership.

We will have Association elections next year and will be looking for folks to fill those Officer and Committee positions, all of which are essential to our operations. If you are interested in service of any kind or know any folks from your campus or any other statewide service that would be good for a role, please reach out. Service is an important tool for engagement at all levels. Tell your story of engagement. Word of mouth is the most powerful way to get our colleagues to become interested and invested in the very important work of CSU-ERFSA.

I look forward to helping CSU-ERFSA continue to be of service to our valued colleagues.

Sincerely,

Sue Holl
Professor Emerita of Materials Science
California State University, Sacramento

Citizen Science Projects

(Continued from page 1)

bit.ly/SolarJetHunter

Weather Rescue At Sea. AIM: Extend the climate record further back in time. HOW TO HELP: To put today's climate change into perspective, scientists need a long-running record of global temperatures. That record is pretty good for the 20th century, but becomes spottier in the 19th century. To fill in the gaps, researchers are digitizing weather log-books from ships that sailed in the mid-1800s. Anyone with an internet connection (and willing to read old-timey cursive handwriting) can help transcribe the wealth of data locked away in these books. Transcribe observations at bit.ly/WeatherRescueAtSea

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network. AIM: Improve the quality of precipitation data. HOW TO HELP: Because rain and snowfall are so variable over even short distances, the best way to accurately assess precipitation is to get as many on-the-ground measurements as possible. That's the aim of this network of volunteers across the United States, Canada and the Bahamas who make daily precipitation measurements in their backyards. With a project-approved rain gauge and some online training, you can collect data that's useful to everyone from farmers and city managers to the National Weather Service. Set up a weather station at www.cocorahs.org

Finding Rico. AIM: Identify genius dogs. HOW TO HELP: In 2004, researchers introduced the world to Rico, a border collie that recognized about 200 spoken words (SN: 6/12/04, p. 371). Now, scientists are looking for more high-vocabulary dogs to study canine intelligence and language skills. If your pooch seems to know at least 20 objects by name, the team wants to hear from you. Get in touch at bit.ly/FindingRico. Email: findingricodogs@gmail.com

CFA Report: 99th General Assembly Resolutions

By Jay Swartz, CSPU Pomona, CSU-ERFSA Liaison to CFA

California Faculty Association delegates closed the month of October completing a week-long series of meetings, initially via Zoom and then concluding the 99th General Assembly with in-person meetings for three days near the LAX airport.

In this presidential election year passions seemed to peak, particularly as the majority of statehouse races that will determine the future funding of the CSU are at stake. This was particularly voiced via the remarks of CFA keynote speaker LaShae Sharp-Collins, adjunct professor of African Studies at San Diego State University and Assembly candidate for the 79th district in southeast San Diego, who thrilled delegates with her call for an even greater commitment to social justice issues and statement regarding the value of unions to better the lives of working class people.

Passions also peaked during the open sessions discussing six proposed resolutions, with three taking center stage for extend-

ed time allocations.

The first resolution unanimously called for the end of what CFA terms a two tiered system of tenure line versus non-tenure line faculty (the vote was 79% yes and 21% no). The second resolution demanded an end to genocide in the Middle East, with many delegate statements supporting the citizens of Palestine and Lebanon. One delegate noted that not one child is able to attend school there due to months of war. (The vote was 87% yes and 13% no).

The longest discussion centered around whether CFA should establish a strike fund, with views seemingly split on whether it would be prudent to raise dues to fund what one delegate stated would cost at least \$1 million each day a strike would be held. The motion carried with 60% yes votes and 40% no, with the next steps to be determined later.

After a safe resolution supporting the fur-

therance of academic freedom throughout university ranks (95% yes and 5% no), the fifth resolution revisited the painful days when many rank and file union members felt betrayed that the bargaining team settled with management too soon last year and gave away too much.

What emerged from this angst was a resolution mandating that the only mechanism to end a work stoppage would be after a majority vote of the entire CFA membership. Compared to prior discussions decrying the pain primarily in Palestine and the prudence of a strike fund, this resolution seemed to have less verbal opposition, yet it somewhat surprisingly failed when all votes were tallied. (The vote was 48% yes and 52% no).

The final resolution served as an indicator of 21st century technological developments, one that called for greater protection of labor from the expansion in classrooms of AI platforms, or artificial intelligence. This resolution also carried, with 89% in favor and 11% against.

It was also noted that the current contract expires June 30, leading to a request to the rank and file to complete a bargaining survey online to help determine what priorities CFA should establish with management as talks once again will emerge.

On the legislative front CFA reported a mixed bag of outcomes in Sacramento. Noteworthy among the successes was movement toward getting a more diverse board of trustees named in the CSU, one that appears more like its student body, while the attempt to establish a second faculty trustee did not garner sufficient traction and was tabled.

Clearly, the assembly's theme "Liberate the CSU—Our vision for the people's university" was on full display in every corner of this assemblage.

Legislative Report: CalPERS Return

By Robert Girling, Chair, Legislative Committee

CalPERS. CalPERS reported a preliminary investment return of 9.3% for the 2023-24 fiscal year, with public equities achieving gains of over 17%. This strong performance raised the estimated funded status to 75%, with the total value of CalPERS investments reaching \$526.35 billion—an encouraging outcome.

Legislation. Key legislation impacting the California State University (CSU) system includes:

- **AB 2005:** Authorizes CSU residential development partners to leverage low-income housing tax credits to create affordable housing for faculty and staff. Approved by the governor, September 2024.

- **AB 2395:** Provides CSU campuses with greater flexibility to allocate professional and continuing education funds toward expanding academic programs. Approved by the governor, September 2024.

- **AB1705 (from 2022, see p. 1):**

Mandates that community college districts and colleges prioritize helping students complete transfer-level English and mathematics coursework within a year of their initial attempt.

Veto. Governor Newsom vetoed the following legislation:

- **SB 895 (Roth) and AB 2104 (Soria):** These bills sought to allow community colleges to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The CSU system raised concerns that these measures would increase competition for resources and disrupt efforts to expand access to nursing programs within CSU. In his veto letter, Governor Newsom expressed appreciation for the authors' dedication to seeking to expand nursing degree options for community college students but noted, "All segments of higher education should continue working collaboratively to build these programs, and I am concerned this bill could unintentionally hinder that collaboration."

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Today!**

For information, see www.csuerfsa.org and choose Membership, or see the box on the main page.

“The Longevity Diaries: About Aging Gracefully”

By Christopher T. Kondo, Marketing, CSU Fullerton

The following is excerpted from Dr. Christopher Kondo’s final report on his CSU-ERFSA research grant:

The grant supported the creation of my 25-minute documentary, “The Longevity Diaries: About Aging Gracefully.” The film profiles five active and engaged older adults ranging in age from 81 to 103.

One of the older adults is Dorothy Heide, Ph.D., 91, Emerita, Retired Associate Dean, Cal State Fullerton. Another is Casey Goeller, 81, teaching five classes per semester at Cal State Long Beach. Additionally, the film includes expert commentary from three gerontology experts from CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach,

and CSU Channel Islands. Through interviews and footage of the older adults actively engaged in day-to-day life, the film is organized around five key themes: adapt; manage stress; friends and family; diet and exercise; and “try, learn, teach.”

The grant helped defray my travel expenses. CSU-ERFSA’s support also provided credibility to the project as I approached potential participants. A link to view “The Longevity Diaries: About Aging Gracefully” is available upon request.

In April 2024, the film debuted to an enthusiastic audience of 160 at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), Cal State Fullerton. Attendees included Cal

State Fullerton Emeriti, OLLI members, faculty and students. The film is being shown in gerontology classes at CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach, and CSU Channel Islands. It has also been submitted to several film festivals including the Legacy Film Festival on Aging, THIRD ACTION Film Festival, and the Los Angeles Diversity Film Festival. I plan to submit the film to the streaming service, Kanopy, which services university and public libraries. The positive reception to the film has motivated me to offer my services as an emerging film maker to small, deserving, non-profit organizations. My first planned project is a “promotional” video for the Emeriti of CSU Fullerton.

“I FERPing, Therefore I Am”

By Dr. Christine M. Miller, Prof. Emerita of Communication Studies, CSU Sacramento

“I’m FERPing.”

The first time I heard that odd gerund was in 1986 when I interviewed for an Assistant Professor position in the CSU. It was uttered by someone who was to become a senior colleague, and at the time I looked askance, privately marveling at the bizarre lexicon of these Californians.

My puzzled expression led this colleague to explain that FERP is an acronym for the Faculty Early Retirement Program, which allows retired annuitants to continue teaching half-time for up to five years.

Almost 4 decades later, having watched several senior colleagues take advantage of this program, it’s now me who utters the phrase, and explains it to those who look puzzled.

From the bleachers prior to my own retirement, FERP seemed to be a nice way to wind down a career without quitting “cold turkey.” My FERPed colleagues taught fewer classes, but they were still involved in the life of the University. They advised students, attended faculty meetings, served on committees, conducted research, etc., so I didn’t really even think of them as “retired.”

Not surprisingly, now that I’m on the field instead of in the bleachers, my perspective

has changed. I finally decided to “pull the plug” on my status as a tenured full Professor of Communication Studies and enter the retirement ranks. I looked forward to slowing down, and to changing my email signature to Professor Emerita.

What I didn’t anticipate is the liminal void into which I have stepped. Alia Hoyt, writing for the science section of the blog *HowStuffWorks*, explains that “liminal spaces are transitional or transformative spaces that are neither here nor there; they are the in-between places or thresholds we pass through from one area to another.” In fact, Hoyt points to a “wildly popular Reddit thread *r/LiminalSpace*,” with 818,000 members who are invited to post often eerie images that depict “a sense of lingering in a region or state that would usually be passed without a second’s thought.”

Liminal space, thy name is FERP.

I’m not a full-time faculty member, and I’m not a full-time retiree. I’m in between worlds. I have inhabited this space for nine weeks already. Two-hundred fifty-one weeks to go!

These upcoming weeks, like the roughly 1,820 that came before them, will be dominated by teaching. Sure, service and

research still get their due, but I came to the CSU for a reason: to teach. Even in retirement, that *raison d’être* persists. But it persists in this uncanny existential state of FERP.

While I navigate this emotional liminal space, I’m also exploring a physical liminal space: a prison. Prisons house those who hope their stay in the “in-between” is short. Once they were free, then they were incarcerated, and they yearn for freedom again. I’m not being metaphorical or allegorical here: for the last nine weeks I have been teaching students proximally distant from Sacramento State who are enrolled in the Transforming Outcomes Project at Sacramento State (TOPSS). My students are an incredible group of men earning baccalaureate degrees in Communication Studies who are currently residing at Folsom State Prison.

So, “I’m FERPing,” as I tell people, but because of what all my prior students over the decades have taught me, I’m proud to say that right now I am doing the best teaching of my entire career with the most dedicated and hard-working students I have ever served.

A liminal void was created and simultaneously filled, for me and for my students. We’re thriving in the in-between!

ASCSU Report: Many Issues For the September Meeting

By Jerald Schutte, CSU Northridge, Emeriti Academic Senator

The Academic Senate of the CSU (ASCSU) meetings were held in Long Beach at the Chancellor's office in hybrid format on September 19-20, 2024, with approximately 50% in person and the other 50% on Zoom. Standing reports were given by the new chair, Elizabeth Boyd (Chico), who announced the new officers, Vice Chair Adam Svenson (Northridge); Secretary Tracy Dawn Hamilton (Sacramento); and Members-at-Large Julia Currie Rodriguiz (San Jose) and Nola Butler Bird (San Diego). Other standing reports came from the committees: Academic Affairs; Fiscal and Governmental Affairs; Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and Faculty Affairs, as well as the faculty trustee and the liaison from CSU-ERFSA.

Issues. Several issues continue to influence activities in this academic year. First, although the state budget deficit is estimated to reach some \$38 billion, the 2024-25 budget passed by the legislature in June maintains the CSU 5% increase through its compact with the governor, although with a one-time reduction of \$75 million. Yet while the CSU maintains its base allocation, it is estimated by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) that the 2025-26 budget will have another \$15 billion deficit. Accordingly, the second year of the two-year allocation will see CSU having its budget reduced approximately 8% or \$400+ million in 2025-26.

A second issue that continues from 2023-24 is the evolution of the administration at the Chancellors Office. First is Human Resources. Since the Cosen O'Connor report and the resulting Title IX issues, new policies and administration have emerged. Interim VC for Human Resources Al Liddicoat and Assistant VC for Civil Rights Programming and Services Hayley Schwartzkopf report a new structure has been created for the CO, dividing the CSU into 5 regions, each with its own director, thus allowing guidance and training to individual campuses and requiring an annual survey reporting on Title IX and related issues.

Yet another reorganization decision was reported by Dilcie Perez, deputy VC of academic and student affairs & chief student affairs officer, and Nathan Evans, deputy VC, stating that the Chancellor has decided to split academic and student

affairs into two separate divisions. The search for the personnel to fill those positions took place this fall for academic affairs and will take place next spring for student affairs.

Several other issues were reported by these administrators: 1) the time, place, and manner policy, required by the state prior to fall 2024 semester, has been issued in draft form; and 2) work continues on a new student advising framework to be ready by spring 2025; 3) enrollment which has historically been in decline, appears to have a slight increase (2%), this year, but is still below the funding target.

Still another reorganization concerns the merger of Cal State Maritime and Cal Poly SLO. The Board will receive a presentation on Maritime and SLO integration. DVC Evans asserts that this integration is the only way to save Cal Maritime. The CSU will continue to explore opportunities to combine, collaborate on programs, and foster intersystem collaboration. The Board will vote on the integration in November.

Our associates, the California Faculty Association (CFA) and the California State Student Association (CSSA), also reported to the Senate. CFA President Charles Toombs reported that bargaining will begin next semester. Beyond salary negotiations, one item is likely to be academic freedom. This has most recently emerged from the opposition by CFA of the "Time, Place, and Manner" memorandum issued by the CO. CFA contends the policy is not in effect because there was no meet and confer. The same objection applies to the integration of the SLO and Maritime campuses. CFA met with chapters on these campuses. The Maritime faculty were not consulted by the CO and have mixed reaction. SLO faculty have not formally responded. Commitment to preserving faculty jobs is at issue. The CFA chapter presidents on both campuses are soliciting input from their faculty to help CFA most effectively help faculty.

CSSA VP of Systemwide Affairs Tara Al-Rehani reported on student engagement in school, tight budgets, poor communication between administration and students, issues facing undocumented students,

parking fees, desire for more flexible hours for student services, including financial aid, counseling, especially asking that students have the total cost of attendance at CSUs be central to discussions of cost.

Beyond guests, the important activity during the second day was the election of the five members of the 2024-25 faculty trustee recommendation committee. The five members elected were: Chair Tracy Dawn Hamilton (Sacramento); Members Robert Collins (SF), Dana Nakano (Stanislaus), James Pitts (Fresno), and Stephanie Burkhalter (Humboldt).

Resolutions. The ASCSU approved the following resolutions with first reading waivers. Copies of these resolutions can be found <https://tinyurl.com/apsx56sb>.

AS-3708-24/APEP Support for Revisions to the CSU Policy on Teacher Education Preliminary Credential Programs. The ASCSU supports recent changes to CSU Teacher Education Preliminary Credential requirements that reflect better alignment with Title 5, updates in law, and the inadvertent deletion of the fieldwork requirement.

AS-3709-24/AA/FGA Proposed Integration of Cal Poly SLO and Cal Maritime in 2026. The ASCSU endorses the informed exploration of an integration between Cal Poly SLO and Cal Maritime universities (especially of administrative positions), while their respective unique characters should be preserved. In any integration, the shared governance process and the purview of faculty over curriculum and programs should be respected, and faculty (including lecturers) and staff positions should be protected.

AS-3711-24/FA/JEDI Resolution on the Interim Time, Place, and Manner Policy This articulates the ASCSU's opposition to the CSU's Interim Time, Place, and Manner Policy (TPM), concluding with calls to the Chancellor to appoint a committee of ASCSU, CSSA, labor unions, and CO representatives to co-author a new, viable, TPM "framework," as instructed by law, that will keep our universities safe without violating the rights and freedoms of faculty, staff, and students.

(Continued on page 8)

Papers on “Truth-Telling versus Propaganda - Exposing the Rift,” from the AAUP

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is pleased to announce the publication of volume 15 of the AAUP’s Journal of Academic Freedom. The content consists of papers on the theme of “Truth-Telling versus Propaganda—Exposing the Rift.”

Scholarly articles in the volume are intended to advance understandings of the salience of academic freedom not only to higher education but also to democracy, social justice, international cooperation, and global problem-solving. These concerns seem all the more timely and urgent during the fall 2024 U.S. election season.

Political actors working at local, state, and national levels have exploited misinformation about history, science, the environment, and more—undermining academically verifiable knowledge through the strategic use and misuse of new media technologies. The rift between propaganda and truth-telling has continued to widen through ongoing legislative and media attacks on education that weaponize critical race theory and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The introduction to the volume and its fifteen contributions examine this rift, engaging in acts of collective truth-telling that bolster the vital role of higher education in a multiethnic democracy. The articles are organized into five thematic clusters—focusing on artificial intelligence, authoritarianism, gender, Black history, and philosophical frameworks—that consider the rift’s implications for academic freedom from a variety of different angles.

You can access the complete volume at <https://www.aaup.org/volume-15>. The faculty coeditors of the volume are Michael Dreiling and Pedro García-Caro.

Editors' Introduction: Truth-Telling and Propaganda, By Michael Dreiling and Pedro García-Caro

Artificial Intelligence and Academic Freedom

“The Art of Truth in the Social Media Age” By Amir Hussain

“The Economics of Disinformation: Academic Freedom in the Era of AI,” By Jorge Zumaeta

“Artificial Intelligence, Academic Freedom, and the Evolving Debate over Forgery and Truth in the Twenty-First Century,” By Natasha N. Johnson, et. al.

“Paradoxes of Generative AI and the Simultaneous Promise and Threat to Academic Freedom,” By Derek Dubois

“Claudine Gay, Plagiarism, and AI,” By William Arighi

Authoritarianism and Academic Freedom

“Rising Antidemocracy, Declining Academic Freedom, and Challenges to Evidence-Based Knowledge,” By Eve Darian-Smith

“Academic Freedom and Society: Intellectual Critique or Violent Revolution?” By Ross Jackson, et. al.
 “Academic (Un)freedom in Iran after 1979: (Transnational) State Suppression of Academia and Risks for (Diasporic) Academics,” By Ladan Rahbari

Gender and Academic Freedom

“Gender Identity, Ohio Politics, and Academic Freedom: A Critical Discourse Analysis to Expose Disinformation,” By Dana Oleskiewicz, et. al.

“The Interplay of Power, Incentives, Academic Freedom, and Gender Equity,” By Alice Wieland and Amy Jansen

Legislative Targets on Black History

“Silencing Wingless Truth: Confronting the Suppression of Academic Freedom and Black Liberation in America,” By Gerald D. Smith Jr. and J. R. Caldwell Jr.
 “A Precedent Set: Understanding the

Florida Assault on Academic Freedom Targeting Black History and the Impact on Leadership Development,” By Kimberly Hardy

Philosophical Frameworks, Truth-Telling, and Academic Freedom

“Social Justice Education, Academic Freedom, and the First Amendment,” By Gene Straughan

“Let’s Recommit to Just and Democratic Truth-Telling Practices,” By Brenda Solomon

“Academic Standards in an Age of Mistrust,” By Dennis Arjo

In Memoriam

Bakersfield – Kim C. Cohn

Chico – Judith A. Clark

East Bay – Donald W. Markos
 Jean S. Simutis

Fresno – Alfred B. Evans, Jr.

Fullerton – Charles A. Baker
 Deborah Osen Hancock
 Jackson K. Putnam

Humboldt – Judith Little
 Charles J. Lovelace
 Robert A. Rasmussen

Long Beach – Carl Maltz

Los Angeles – E. Frederick Anderson
 Robert B. Callahan
 Sidney Richman
 David W. Wilkinson

Monterey Bay – Manuel L. Carlos

Northridge – Sarah Moskovitz
 Paulette Shafranski

San Diego – Susana D. Castro

San Francisco – Dennis R. Beall
 Irene M. Bobak

San José – George Castro
 Paula Gillette

Pocket Calendar

The pocket calendar is currently being sent ONLY to those who have opted in - please notify the office at the email, phone, or address on page 2 if you would like to continue receiving the calendar.

However, if you have opted in already, you do not need to opt in again. You will remain on the list to receive the calendar.

AB 1705 Needs to be Revised

(Continued from page 1)

statewide study and found it impossible to verify the benefit of a calculus prerequisite for any group of students including the group who never completed Algebra 2. Students without Algebra 2 need two more years of high school math to prepare for calculus. Rightfully, colleges currently don't place underprepared students such as those without Algebra 2 directly into calculus. The benefit data needed to comply with the law doesn't exist and won't exist until colleges purposefully enroll underprepared students into calculus.

Unless changed, as of fall 2025 the law will require the community colleges to enroll all students declaring a STEM major directly into calculus regardless of their background. This insane requirement will remove the "second chance" underprepared students currently enjoy by prohibiting colleges from enrolling them into any prerequisite. It will take several disastrous semesters before the data is generated verifying what math educators already know: you need Algebra 2 and Precalculus before taking calculus. In the meantime, the damage to those underprepared student guinea pigs will be devastating and will certainly fall most heavily on underrepresented populations.

Compulsory Misinformation. Section (f)(2) reads:

(2) If the benefit of the coursework, as described in paragraph (1), is not verified, *the college shall not recommend or require students to enroll in that course after July 1, 2025, and shall notify students who continue to enroll in the course that it is optional and does not improve their chances of completing calculus for their STEM program.*

The *italic* section compels community colleges to mislead students by telling them a prerequisite won't help complete calculus.

The bill authors have confused the lack of verification a prep course helps with proof that it doesn't help. This is an embarrassing and logically absurd component of the

The bill authors have confused the lack of verification a prep course helps with proof that it doesn't help. This is an embarrassing and logically absurd component of the legislation.

legislation. It must be corrected.

Placement and Assessment Restrictions. Section 78213-(c)(7)(D) has to do with placement assessment requirements when high school records don't exist or the student never graduated from high school:

(7)(D) District placement methods based upon guided placement, including self-placement, shall not do either of the following:

- (i) Incorporate sample problems, assignments, assessment instruments, or tests, including those designed for skill assessment.
- (ii) Request students to solve problems, answer curricular questions, present

demonstrations and examples of coursework designed to show knowledge or mastery of prerequisite skills, or demonstrate skills through tests or surveys.

Why would any law prohibit obtaining the exact information educators use to be able to competently and professionally convey to students a legitimate assessment of their readiness? Clauses (7)(D)(i) and (ii) are prohibitions against "solving problems," "answering curricular questions," "skill assessment," showing "knowledge or mastery of prerequisite skills." This is like telling a doctor they can't use a thermometer to assess the patient's health status. It would seem the authors are hell-bent to destroy any chance of success in STEM by underprepared students. These restrictions on student assessment and placement must be deleted from the law.

STEM preparation is too important for AB 1705 to go unchallenged. The sections of the law pertaining to community college assessment and placement practices and STEM preparation must be repealed. And in the future, legislators would be wise to tread lightly and cautiously when intruding on mathematics and English curriculum, assessment and standards.

ASCSU Report

(Continued from page 6)

AS-3714-24/Exec Special Rule of Order: Eligibility to Vote on Ratification of ASCSU Constitutional Amendments. The ASCSU is the sole representative of the CSU faculty at the system level. This clarifies that all Unit 3 faculty employees are eligible to vote on changes to the ASCSU Constitution.

AS-3715-24/Exec Schedule and Procedure for Ratification of AS-3660 Amending the Constitution of the Academic Senate of The CSU to Add Three Designated Lecturer Faculty Positions. This sets out a timeline and other details for the process ratifying the amendments to the ASCSU Constitution approved in AS-3660-23/JEDI/FA Amending the Constitution of the Academic Senate of the CSU to Add Three Designated Lecturer Faculty Position (Approved March 2024).

AS-3717-24/JEDI/FA Delaying the Call for Faculty Trustee Nominations. The ASCSU faculty trustee recommending committee from the past two cycles developed recommendations for changes to the procedures and criteria which have yet to be updated by the ASCSU. Delaying the call for nominations allows the ASCSU to review and potentially enact revisions at the November Plenary.

CSU-ERFSA New Members

Channel Islands – Joan Karp

Chico – Joseph L. Crotts*
Sue Steiner

Dominguez Hills – David Hoopes

Fresno – Manfred Bucher

Fullerton – Meri H. Beckham

San José – Rita Manning
Daniel Perales

Stanislaus – Mark A. Grobner

* Indicates lifetime member

Fall Book Reviews

By Robert Girling, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Sonoma State University

From Cold War to Hot Peace, by Michael McFaul (Mariner Books, 2018).

The question Stanford professor Michael McFaul asks is: How did we get from the relative amity of the negotiated end of the Cold War to the mutual distrust and dangerous tensions of today? McFaul studied Russian at Stanford and then spent a semester in St Petersburg. He then returned in 1989 as USSR was breaking up and became an activist working with the Carnegie Endowment. The book begins with a review of events leading up to the dissolution of the USSR—the role of Gorbachev, Yeltsin, Putin, and others. He then moves on to review his life at Stanford promoting democracy in Russia.

From there he goes on to work for the Obama campaign and becomes Obama's Russia expert on the National Security Council. There he works with Obama to reset relations, with favorable results. Obama wanted to greatly reduce nuclear weapons. Then in 2011 he was appointed ambassador to Russia. Unfortunately, relations with Russia dropped off the cliff with Putin's election in 2012. McFaul reports in fascinating detail on his experiences as ambassador. He explains the deterioration in U.S.-Russia relations, offering possible explanations.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin "did what we told them to do, because they had no other choice." They accepted American hegemony not because they "shared American values or interests, but because these Russian leaders were weak." McFaul is not fully satisfied with that explanation, and it is even more misleading than he indicates. From the mid-1940s to the end of the 1960s, when the United States had clear military superiority over the U.S.S.R., communist regimes proliferated.

In contrast, by the mid-1980s, when there was rough military parity between the United States and the Soviet Union, Gorbachev took the initiative in trying to end the Cold War. Gorbachev was virtually alone in the Politburo in believing that the Cold War could easily spill over into a hot war, and that ending it, and radically reducing the weaponry on both sides, was in the interest of Soviet citizens and of all

humanity. Gorbachev's most radical break with Marxism-Leninism was to embrace, especially explicitly from 1988 onward, the idea that there were universal values and interests that took precedence over those of any class, nation or group. Gorbachev's effort to hold together a smaller, loosely federal union by voluntary consent was undone by Yeltsin's demand for Russian independence from a union in which the Russian republic occupied three-quarters of the territory and its people constituted half the population. Most Russians subsequently experienced an emotional sense of loss, as well as political and economic dislocation.

McFaul notes a number of American policies that have been criticized in Russia and contributed to deteriorating conditions including:

- 1) U.S. help to get Yeltsin reelected as president in 1996.
- 2) NATO expansion to east-central Europe and then into successor states of the former Soviet Union.
- 3) The bombing of Serbia.
- 4) The abrogation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in 2002.
- 5) The invasion of Iraq in 2003.
- 6) Persuading Russia not to veto intervention to prevent atrocities in Libya in 2011, on the grounds that the action was not aimed at regime change, although the overthrow of Moammar Gaddafi and a civil war followed.
- 7) The creation of a U.S. missile defense system.
- 8) American support for regime change in Russia's neighboring states, leading Putin to believe that Washington was intent on provoking similar upheaval in Russia.

In all, this book is a fascinating compendium by an important statesman and scholar and well worth reading.

The Soul of a Dog, by Jon Katz (Villard, 2009; Random House, 2010).

Do animals have souls? Some of our greatest thinkers, Aristotle, Plato, Thomas Aquinas, and countless animal lovers have been obsessed with this question for thousands of years. The New York Times best-selling author Jon Katz is looking for an answer. With his signature wisdom, humor, and clarity, Katz relates the sto-

ries of the animals he lives with on Bedlam Farm and finds remarkable kinships at every turn.

Whether it is beloved sheepdog Rose's brilliant and methodical herding ability, Mother the cat's keen mousing instincts, or Izzy's canine compassion toward hospice patients, Katz is mesmerized to see in them individual personas and sparks of self-awareness. *Soul of a Dog* will resonate with anyone who loves dogs, cats, or other animals and who wonders about the spirits that animate them and the deepening hold they have on our lives.

Franklin and Washington, by Edward J. Larson (Morrow, 2020).

The three-decade-long bond that, more than any other pairing, would forge the United States tell the story of two vastly different men, Benjamin Franklin—an abolitionist freethinker from the urban north—and George Washington—a slave-holding general from the agrarian south. They were the indispensable authors of American independence and the two key partners in the attempt to craft a more perfect union at the constitutional convention, held in Franklin's Philadelphia and presided over by Washington. Illuminating Franklin and Washington's relationship with striking new detail and energy, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Edward J. Larson shows that theirs was truly an intimate working friendship that amplified the talents of each for collective advancement of the American project.

After long supporting British rule, both Franklin and Washington became key early proponents of independence. Their friendship gained historical significance during the American Revolution, when Franklin led America's diplomatic mission in Europe (securing money and an alliance with France) and Washington commanded the Continental Army. Victory required both of these efforts to succeed, and success, in turn, required their mutual coordination and cooperation. In the 1780s, the two sought to strengthen the union, leading to the framing and ratification of the Constitution, the founding document that bears their stamp.

(Continued on page 11)

Historic Numbers Live by Themselves as They Age

By Judith Graham, KFF Health News, September 2024

“I miss having a companion who I can talk to and ask ‘How was your day?’ or ‘What do you think of what’s going on in the world?’” said Norington, who lives in an apartment building for seniors on the South Side of Chicago. Although she has a loving daughter in the city, “I don’t want to be a burden to her,” she said.

Norington is part of a large but often overlooked group: the more than 16 million Americans living alone while growing old. Surprisingly little is known about their experiences. This slice of the older population has significant health issues: Nearly 4 in 10 seniors living alone have vision or hearing loss, difficulty caring for themselves and living independently, problems with cognition, or other disabilities, according to a KFF analysis of 2022 census data.

If help at home isn’t available when needed — an altogether too common problem — being alone can magnify these difficulties and contribute to worsening health. Studies find that seniors on their own are at higher risk of becoming isolated, depressed, and inactive, having accidents, and neglecting to care for themselves. As a result, they tend to be hospitalized more often and suffer earlier-than-expected deaths.

Getting medical services can be a problem, especially if older adults living alone reside in rural areas or don’t drive. Too often, experts observe, health care providers don’t ask about older adults’ living situations and are unaware of the challenges they face.

During the past six months, I’ve spoken to dozens of older adults who live alone either by choice or by circumstance — most commonly, a spouse’s death. Some have adult children or other close relatives who are involved in their lives; many don’t. In lengthy conversations, these seniors expressed several common concerns: How did I end up alone at this time of life? Am I OK with that? Who can I call on for help? Who can make decisions on my behalf if I’m unable to? How long will I be able to take care of myself, and what will happen when I can’t?

This “gray revolution” in Americans’ living arrangements is fueled by longer life

spans, rising rates of divorce and childlessness, smaller families, the geographic dispersion of family members, an emphasis on aging in place, and a preference for what Eric Klinenberg, a professor of sociology at New York University, calls “intimacy at a distance” — being close to family, but not too close.

The most reliable, up-to-date data about older adults who live alone comes from the U.S. Census Bureau. According to its 2023 Current Population Survey, about 28% of people 65 and older live by themselves, including slightly fewer than 6 million men and slightly more than 10 million women. (The figure doesn’t include seniors living in institutions, primarily assisted living and nursing homes.) By contrast, 1 in 10 older Americans lived on their own in 1950.

This is, first and foremost, an older women’s issue, because women outlive men and because they’re less likely to remarry after being widowed or divorcing. Twenty-seven percent of women ages 65 to 74 live alone, compared with 21% of men. After age 75, an astonishing 43% of women live alone, compared with only 24% for men. The majority — 80% — of people who live alone after age 65 are divorced or widowed, twice the rate of the general population, according to KFF’s analysis of 2022 census data. More than 20% have incomes below \$13,590, the federal poverty line in 2022, while 27% make between that and \$27,180, twice the poverty level.

Of course, their experiences vary considerably. How older adults living alone are faring depends on their financial status, their housing, their networks of friends and family members, and resources in the communities where they live. Attitudes can make a difference. Many older adults relish being independent, while others feel abandoned. It’s common for loneliness to come and go, even among people who have caring friends and family members.

“I like being alone better than I like being in relationships,” said Janice Chavez of Denver, who said she’s in her 70s. “I don’t have to ask anybody for anything. If I want to sleep late, I sleep late. If I want to stay up and watch TV, I can. I do whatever

er I want to do. I love the independence and the freedom.” She talks to her daughter, Tracy, every day, and is close to several neighbors. She lives in the home she grew up in, inherited from her mother in 1991. Her only sibling, a brother, died a dozen years ago.

In Chicago, Norington is wondering whether to stay in her senior building or move to the suburbs after her car was vandalized this year. “Since the pandemic, fear has almost paralyzed me from getting out as much as I would like,” she told me. She’s a take-charge person who has been deeply involved in her community. In 2016, Norington started an organization for single Black seniors in Chicago that sponsored speed dating events and monthly socials for several years. She volunteered with a local medical center doing outreach to seniors and brought health and wellness classes to her building. She organized cruises for friends and acquaintances to the Caribbean and Hawaii in 2022 and 2023. Now, every morning, Norington sends a spiritual text message to 40 people, who often respond with messages of their own. “It helps me to feel less alone, to feel a sense of inclusion,” she said.

In Maine, Ken Elliott, 77, a retired psychology professor, lives by himself in a house in Mount Vernon, a town of 1,700 people 20 miles northwest of the state capital. He never married and doesn’t have children. His only living relative is an 80-year-old brother in California. For several years, Elliott has tried to raise the profile of solo agers among Maine policymakers and senior organizations. This began when Elliott started inquiring about resources available to older adults living by themselves, like him. How were they getting to doctor appointments? Who was helping when they came home from the hospital and needed assistance? What if they needed extra help in the home but couldn’t afford it? To Elliott’s surprise, he found this group wasn’t on anyone’s radar, and he began advocating on solo agers’ behalf.

Now, Elliott is thinking about how to put together a team of people who can help

(Continued on page 11)

Book Reviews

(Continued from page 9)

Franklin and Washington—the two most revered figures in the early republic—staked their lives and fortunes on the American experiment in liberty and were committed to its preservation.

Today the United States is the world's great superpower, and yet we also wrestle with the government Franklin and Washington created more than two centuries ago—the power of the executive branch, the principle of checks and balances, the electoral college—as well as the wounds of their compromise over slavery. Now, as the founding institutions appear under new stress, it is time to understand their origins through the fresh lens of Larson's *Franklin & Washington*, a major addition to the literature of the founding

era.

How I Learned to Travel, by Sherry Keith (Independently published on Amazon, 2024)

If you are yearning for some adventure, this memoir of travel tales by Sherry Keith will take you to England, France, Spain, Jamaica, Chile, Cuba, Brazil, Nicaragua, Barbados, and Ghana without having to get on an airplane or pack your suitcase. An excerpt:

As the story goes, two brothers left Jamaica to start a lumber business in a place called Greytown, somewhere along Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast. One uncle was in the habit of taking the other's young daughter to the river every morning for a bath. After letting the girl play in the shal-

lows, he would leave her on the shore and take an extended swim for himself. He was a powerful swimmer; still, on one fateful day, a local alligator decided to eat him for breakfast. Following this tragic event, his brother, together with a search party, hunted down the alligator, killed it, and eventually found pieces of the victim's bathing suit hitched on a tooth and his wedding ring in the alligator's belly. One of the murderous alligator's teeth, a big one where the shred of bathing suit had been found, was taken from the reptile's jaw, and then passed on from generation to generation in the family.

*The story, gruesome as it was, fascinated me and I always thought about visiting the crime site in Greytown, more than one hundred years later. In January 1981, Robert Girling was hired as a consultant to the newly installed Sandinista government of Nicaragua, after a protracted civil war had decimated the country from its Pacific to Caribbean coasts. This presented me an opportunity to search for Greytown, the site of the infamous alligator incident. Although our daughter Chalyn was in the fourth grade at Berkwood-Hedge School, her teacher, Rhea, was flexible and supportive of a three-week trip. We packed math exercises and reading books including *Harriet the Spy*, the book about an eleven-year-old named Harriet who lived in New York City, loved to write, and spied on friends. She recorded her observations in a precious diary. I hoped *Harriet the Spy* would inspire Chalyn to keep her own diary during our travels. Chalyn was enthusiastic about the impending adventure. She and I would be companions while Robert worked. I did not promote the trip as a family vacation. Instead, I envisioned it as a pure travel adventure and an opportunity for Chalyn and me to sleuth the scene of the alligator crime by finding Greytown together.*

For more, go to:

<https://www.sherrykeithauthor.org/>

Historic Numbers Living Alone as They Age

(Continued from page 10)

him as he ages in place — and how to build a stronger sense of community. “Aging without a mythic family support system — which everyone assumes people have — is tough for everybody,” Elliott said.

In Manhattan, Lester Shane, 72, who never married or had children, lives by himself in an 11-by-14-foot studio apartment on the third floor of a building without an elevator. He didn't make much money during a long career as an actor, a writer, and a theater director, and he's not sure how he'll make ends meet once he stops teaching at Pace University. “There are days when I'm carrying my groceries up three flights of stairs when I think, ‘This is really hard,’” Shane told me. Although his health is pretty good, he knows that won't last forever. “I'm on all the lists for senior housing — all lottery situations. Most of the people I've talked to said you will probably die before your number comes up,” he said with mordant humor.

Then, Shane turned serious. “I'm old and getting older, and whatever problems I have now are only going to get worse,” he said. As is the case for many older adults who live alone, his friends are getting older and having difficulties of their own. The prospect of having no one he knows

well to turn to is alarming, Shane admitted: “Underneath that is fear.”

Kate Shulamit Fagan, 80, has lived on her own since 1979, after two divorces. “It was never my intention to live alone,” she told me in a lengthy phone conversation. “I expected that I would meet someone and start another relationship and somehow sail off into the rest of my life. It's been exceedingly hard to give up that expectation.” When I first spoke to Fagan, in mid-March, she was having difficulty in Philadelphia, where she'd moved two years earlier to be close to one of her sons. “I've been really lonely recently,” she told me, describing how difficult it was to adjust to a new life in a new place. Although her son was attentive, Fagan desperately missed the close circle of friends she'd left behind in St. Petersburg, Florida, where she'd lived and worked for 30 years.

Four and a half months later, when I called Fagan again, she'd returned to St. Petersburg and was renting a one-bedroom apartment in a senior building. She'd celebrated her birthday there with 10 close friends and was meeting people in her building. “I'm not completely settled, but I feel fabulous,” she told me. What accounted for the change? “Here, I know if I want to go out or I need help, quite a few people would be there for me,” Fagan said. “The fear is gone.”

If you are reading *The Reporter* online and would like to drop your paper subscription (i.e., read *The CSU-ERFSA Reporter* online only) please drop the office a note at csuerf-sa@csun.edu.

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**California State University
Emeritus & Retired Faculty and Staff Association**

**New CSU Strategic
Planning Process**

Chancellor Mildred García has announced the CSU will spend the next year creating a new strategic plan that will impact all campuses and programs.

This is a rare, transformational moment. Together, we can reimagine the CSU's future and chart a bold and innovative path forward. We already know the destination – to serve as a national model for educating America's new majority, comprised of first-generation students, students of color, low-income students and adults seeking a brighter future. Our task is to develop the roadmap – a three-year systemwide strategic plan, the first in more than a decade. - Chan. Mildred García

As contributors who spent years educating and supporting students from all programs in our university, your experience and deep understanding of our students and their goals provides valuable material for this exercise.

This entire process is scheduled to take a

CSU-ERFSA Calendar of Events

Winter Executive Committee Meeting - Via Zoom, Tuesday 1/21/25, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Spring 2025 CSU-ERFSA State Council Meeting. The intention is that this meeting be partially in person for those who can come and partially by Zoom for those who cannot.

October 31, 2025 - CSU-ERFSA Research Grant Applications due. 2 p.m.

year, but the time to make comments appears to be short. Town halls are planned for the month of November through December 6, 2024 and comments/questions are being solicited from mid-November until mid-December. The details of the strategic planning process are available as is a site where updates will be posted. The whole process is available through the contents at the right on this page: (<https://tinyurl.com/39mffsa6>).

We hope that you will take a few minutes to take advantage of these invitations and help the CSU make effective choices moving forward. We plan to have an open discussion about the new CSU Strategic Plan at the spring State Council meeting.

Personal/Professional

David W. Wilkinson, a CSU Los Angeles academic librarian who served as University Librarian for two years, died July 4, 2024. He also served on the Academic Senate and CSU system-wide, was a member of the CSU Council of Library Directors. At CSU Chico, he served for several years as Vice President of the CSU Chico ERFSA affiliate. Before becoming an academic librarian, Wilkinson had a career in television broadcasting, ultimately establishing the first Public Broadcasting System (PBS) television station in the central San Joaquin Valley. He earned an MBA and an MLS from UCLA, and an MEA from CSULA.