



REPORTER

A publication of the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

President Maurer Reports on the State Council Meeting

THE CSU-ERFA STATE COUNCIL met on October 16, 1999, in San Francisco with 45 members and delegates in attendance. After a few announcements, approval of the minutes, and setting the agenda, we started with the real stuff.

We will continue to provide those services that our members want and we will stay alert to the Sacramento scene where much of what determines our retirement and health benefits is decided.

Executive Director **Bob Kully** (LA) reported that our office was being moved to a new location that is not as nice as where we have been, but we'll still be on the Northridge campus. We are grateful that Northridge officials continue to be willing to help us.

Wilma Krebs (Sac) reported on legislation of concern to us that survived the Governor's veto and those that didn't. She also reported on PERS actions that will affect many of us. Her complete report is on page 3.

Kurt Bohnsack (SD), chair pre-post retirement concerns committee, reported that the final draft of the *Survivors Guide* has been com-

pleted and sent to the Executive Committee for approval. The authors of the guide are Kurt and committee members **Herbert Rutemiller** (Ful) and **Frieda Stahl** (LA). **Ralph Bigelow**, chair, publications committee, took part in the final editing and design. The guide lists items that should be taken care of well in advance of the death of a member or spouse. CalPERS and other organizations have prepared brief outlines of things that should be collected, but the guide is much more extensive and will be of help when preparing your papers for your heirs.

The guide does not include legal or tax advice, but covers all other matters very well. I know that you will thank Kurt, Herb, Frieda and Ralph for their major effort in producing this document. It is in the hands of the Executive Committee members and as soon as they complete their review it will be published and distributed to all members.

(Continued on page 2)

Benefit Equity Bill Signed

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT KULLY announced in a "Legislative Update," sent to all members in October, that Governor Davis signed the CalPERS sponsored Benefit Equity Bill (SB 400).

The bill provides a one-time, ad hoc increase in the retirement benefits of most CalPERS retirees. The percentage increase varies by the date of retirement—the longer you've been retired, the greater the percentage.

Those retiring in 1974 or earlier will receive a six percent increase; between 1975 and 1984, five percent; between 1985 and 1989, four percent; between 1990 and 1997 three percent; between 1995 and 1996, two percent; in 1997, one percent. Those who retired in 1998 or later do

not benefit by the legislation.

The increase becomes effective January 1, 2000. The first payment of the increase, however, will not occur until April 1, and will be retroactive to January 1.

The ad hoc increase will be added to your base retirement benefit to establish a new base, upon which cost-of-living allowances will be computed.

Governor Gray Davis vetoed, however, the legislation (SB 234) that would have guaranteed 75 percent of purchasing power to retirees. He also vetoed the bill that would have increased the death benefit to \$5,000.

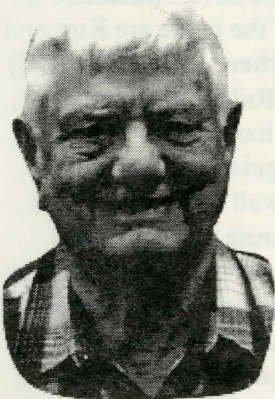
See the report elsewhere in this issue of other legislative results. •

(President Maurer's report, continued from page 1)

You might recall that **Alan Smith** (Hay) and **Mark Van Aken**

(Hay) had sent a letter to the State Council last spring listing seven issues of concern about the CSU and its future. The Executive Committee at its July meeting had appointed an ad hoc

committee to adapt the concerns of the Smith/Van Aken memorandum into a statement that would address the changing nature of the California State University and its effect on



students. **Milt Dobkin** (Hum), chair of the ad hoc committee, presented its report to the State Council.

The report asked the State Council to approve a strategy that would have a group of CSU-ERFA members meet with members of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate to express to them our sense of a crisis in the system and the reasons we think it has occurred. If we were of a common mind on the issue it certainly would enhance any approach we might want to make to those in a position to address the future of the CSU. On the recommendation of the committee the following were selected to meet with the Academic Senate Executive Committee: **Milt Dobkin** (Hum), **Dave Elliott** (SJ), **Mark Van Aken** (Hay), **June Pollak** (Ful) and **Bob Maurer** (Chico). We hope such a meeting will be held in mid-November or early December.

After meeting with the Academic Senate the committee will contact California legislators and other state officers who are considering changes in higher education. The joint committee reviewing the Master Plan for

Higher Education, for example, may be interested in hearing the CSU-ERFA committee's view.

At the July meeting of the Executive Committee **Max Norton** (Stan), chair grant awards committee, urged us to actively pursue the establishment of a CSU-ERFA Foundation that would be able to receive tax deductible donations in CSU-ERFA's name. The funds so collected would be used to support our grant awards program and other similar activities. On October 15, just before the State Council meeting, we met with an attorney familiar with setting up such foundations. He outlined the steps necessary for incorporation by the state as a non-profit, charitable foundation and for receiving the proper approval by the IRS as a tax-exempt organization. This was reported to the Council and approval was given for an item in next year's budget covering the costs. I hope to be able to report to you soon ("soon" being measured in State and Federal bureaucratic time!) that the CSU-ERFA Foundation has been established.

The year 2000 marks the 15th anniversary of the founding of CSU-ERFA. We usually think in terms of 25 or 50 years as important milestones in the life of an organization or a marriage. **Sidney Albert** (LA), who was the leader in establishing CSU-ERFA and was its first president, reminded us, however, that if we were to wait another ten years, many of us who have been active in CSU-ERFA and who would like to celebrate its accomplishments would not be around. So fifteen years seem like a good compromise! **Emmett Long** (Ful), past president and chair of the committee that is planning the celebration, reported that the most practical solution would be to combine the Spring 2000 State Council meeting with the anniversary activities. Consequently we are planning to have a brief business session in the morning

followed by a luncheon with a speaker and then perhaps a couple of symposia led by the speaker or other guests. As more detailed plans are made we will keep you informed.

I think that CSU-ERFA is moving forward on track into the next millennium. We will continue to provide those services that our members want and we will stay alert to the Sacramento scene where much of what determines our retirement and health benefits is decided. And we will stay on the job of solving those problems that affect us particularly as retired faculty members of CSU—downgrading of dental coverage and any lingering "Golden Hand Shake" problems. You should be proud that you have joined with almost 3,000 other members in the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association to work for the betterment of our own retired status and also for the benefit of the students that the California State University will continue to serve in the future. Together we will make a difference!•

Robert Maurer, president
rmaurer@mail.csuchico.edu

Although the CSU-ERFA office has moved to new quarters on the Northridge campus, the address, phone numbers, and e-mail address remain unchanged. Should you plan to visit the office, call ahead and we will give you directions to the new location.

Further Legislative News

The "Legislative Update" that CSU-ERFA issued to members in October reported on a number of bills of interest signed by the governor in addition to the Benefit Equity legislation:

- SB 514 Rural Health Care Equity Trust Fund—provides subsidy if no HMO available
- AB 232 Survivor continuation allowances and preretirement death benefits do not cease upon remarriage
- AB 88 Parity in health plans for mental illness
- SB 26 Protection against age discrimination

The governor also signed:

- SB 475 Requires that long-term care insurance companies provide a rate guide and rate history to consumers
- SB 738 Extends the Partnership for Long-Term Care Pilot to 2005
- SB 870 Long-term care insurance consumer protections
- AB 936 Sixty more days to acquire Medicare supplemental insurance if bad information given by insurance companies
- SB 393 Prescription medicine discounts equal to Medi-Cal with Medicare card.
- AB 791 Pain management: reform in medical school education and patient care
- AB 12, SB 21, SB 59, SB 64, AB 549, and SB 97, all dealing with patient bill of rights.

Proposed legislation of possible interest to members that failed passage included:

- SB 311 Would have increased the annual cost-of-living allowance to three percent
- AB 211 Would have restored health benefits to lecturers and coaches with six weighted teaching units

Governor Davis also vetoed AB 1160,

the nursing home reform bill, saying that it placed a significant burden on the General Fund but that he is committed to pursuing other reforms. •

[From Wilma Krebs's report to the State Council]

CalPERS Long-Term Care Insurance Program: Benefit Changes and Enhancements

A. Comprehensive Plan

1. Deductible changes from paid service days to calendar days. This will help those receiving home care for less than a full week to accumulate a full week of credit toward the 90-day deductible more quickly. Starts on the first day of service after eligibility for benefits established.

2. Hospice care benefits. Will pay for benefits not covered by Medicare or health plan. Premium waived upon first payment under hospice benefit.

B. Nursing Home/ Assisted Living Facility Plan

Same change in deductible, from 90 service days to 90 calendar days.

2. Add a Hospice care benefit, as above.

3. Change the benefit trigger from three assisted living dependencies (ADL) to two ADL dependencies for access to the assisted living benefit.

C. Partnership Plan

1. Change the deductible from 30 service days to 30 calendar days.

2. Add a Hospice Care benefit

D. New Plan Options

1. Add a new plan option of \$100 a day (nursing home); \$50 a day (assisted living facility); \$1,500 a month home care, plus the above changes in the comprehensive and nursing home and assisted living plans. Premium will be approximately 80 percent of the premium for the \$130-a-day nursing home plans.

2. There will be no premium increase for the \$130-a-day plans.

E. New Partnership Offerings for 2000

1. The Partnership would no longer offer the \$110-a-day nursing home benefit, but would offer \$130-a-day and \$100-a-day options. Corresponding levels for assisted living facilities would be \$65 a day and \$50 a day; home care would be \$1,950 a month or \$1,500 a month.

2. Total coverage for the two Partnership plans would be \$47,450 (one year nursing home) or \$94,900 (two year nursing home), at the \$130 level, or \$36,500 and \$73,000 at the \$100 level. The premiums are estimated to be eight percent lower for the \$100 option, and about 18 percent higher for the \$130 level, as compared to the present \$110 level policy.

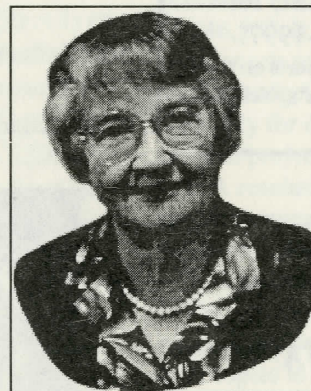
F. Timing

1. The enhanced plans will be offered to new enrollees in the enrollment period from April 1 to June 30, 2000.

2. All current enrollees with an effective date *on and after* January 1, 1997, will be automatically enhanced—no need for member selection. No premium increase.

3. Approximately 70,000 enrollees with effective dates *prior* to January 1, 1997, will need to make a decision whether to accept these enhancements. PERS staff has stated that these are "material changes," which could mean loss of grandfathered tax-qualified status or loss of liberal benefit triggers. The plan is to have a side-by-side comparison of benefits to assist in the choice. •

[Legislative Chair Wilma Krebs's report to the State Council]



Wilma Krebs, chair, legislative committee

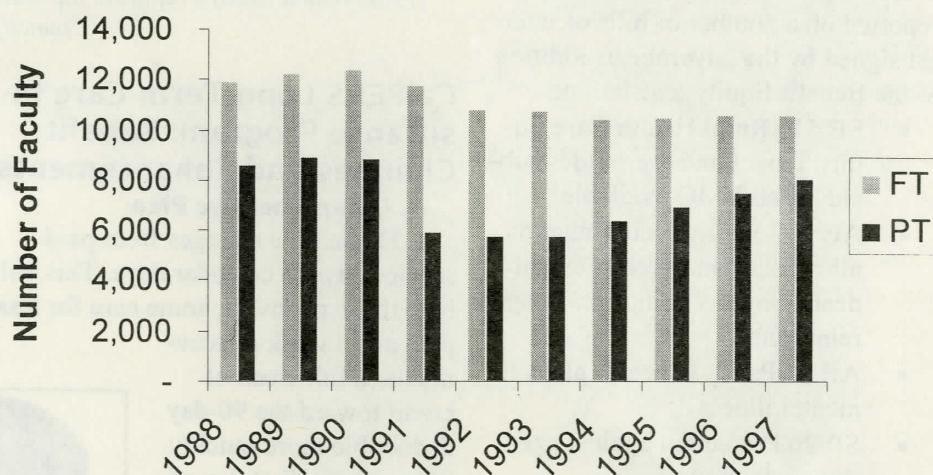
Part-time Faculty: An Issue of Concern?

President Maurer's report refers to the Smith/Van Aken memorandum listing seven issues of concern about the CSU and its future (see page 2 of this issue of the *Reporter*). One of the concerns mentioned is the increasing use of part-time faculty in the CSU, asserting that institutional quality is thereby affected.

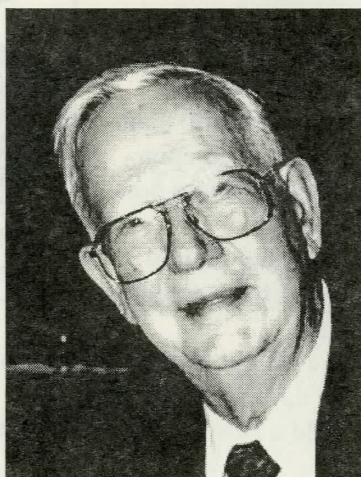
The accompanying chart displays the number of full-time and part-time faculty in the CSU for the ten-year period 1988-1997.

Source: Statistical Reports on the Office of the Chancellor's Website

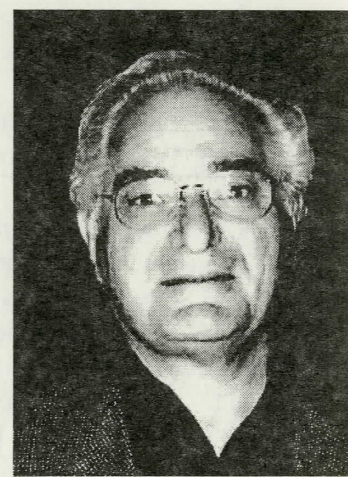
CSU Faculty: FT & PT 1988-1997



First Timers at the CSU-ERFA State Council meeting, fall 1999



DeWayne Johnson (Nor)



Lawrence Ianni (SF)



Don Cameron (Nor)



James Conant (Ful)



William Mason (SF)

CFA: Moving into the Year 2000

AFTER THE MOST TURBULENT YEAR in its history, the California Faculty Association is moving into the year 2000 with a strong and steady wind in its sails. Last May, the bargaining standoff between CFA and the California State University ended with a new three-year contract; the State legislature passed SB 645, the "Higher Education Fair Share" bill, which the CFA had strongly supported and which was signed by the governor in early October; and CFA membership has increased substantially since last spring.

All of these developments were topics for discussion at the CFA Fall Assembly, which convened in October in Los Angeles. Compared to the Spring Assembly last April, which took place after rejection of the earlier tentative bargaining agreement and was marked by a collective sense of anger, frustration, and uncertainty about the future relationship between CSU faculty and administration, the meeting was almost a placid affair.

That's not to say that the agenda was lacking in weighty issues. One of these was the implementation of the new contract (details of which Susan Meisenholder, CFA president, described in the September issue of the *Reporter*) and, specifically, of the "Faculty Merit Increase" (FMI) component of the salary article. On several campuses, the administration's interpretation of the FMI provisions appears to differ from CFA's understanding of the contract language. Thus the question has arisen whether campus presidents or their designees can shift FMI funds between departments. CFA chapters are being urged to discuss this and other procedural matters with their campus presidents, to monitor the process of awarding FMIs, and to keep the CFA leadership updated.

Another subject, generating considerable debate, was the report from the "Fair Share Task Force," chaired by

Tim Sampson (SF). The new legislation spells out the types of representation expenses for which fair share (FS) fees can be levied, but it does not specify the dues amounts or the method of collection. The former still have to be calculated before next January, when FS goes into effect. The general estimate is that FS fees will be somewhere between 80 and 90 percent of CFA membership dues. As to the method of collection, there are two alternatives to choose from. One involves the withholding of fees equal to a percentage of regular CFA dues—say, 80 percent—from paychecks of nonmembers. The other method (practiced, among others, by the California Teachers Association) would involve collecting the equivalent of 100 percent of CFA dues, with the excess amount over the FS dues (excess over, e.g., 80 percent) to be rebated to those nonmembers who request it. (CTA's experience has been that very few of them actually do.)

The question of which collection method to employ, and a separate, but FS-related recommendation that the \$2 per month dues "surcharge" for CFA members (not to be confused with the political action component of member dues), which has been in effect for almost a decade, be rescinded once the FS dues process is underway, generated a lively debate, in which the short- and long-term implications for maintaining and increasing CFA membership were a major focus: Will nonmembers be inclined to join CFA, since the difference in dues rates will be rather small? Will, instead, current members be tempted to drop out, because FS fees will be less than CFA dues? Will a dues reduction for CFA members, implemented in conjunction with the collection of FS fees, create negative publicity among non-members and others?

In the end, the Assembly voted for the dues "surcharge" to be rescinded

and to delegate the determination of the FS fee amount and the method of collection to the CFA board. It also voted to create a CFA Membership Dues Commission, charged with preparing recommendations about "CFA dues levels and structure in light of fair share revenue," for presentation to the Spring 2000 Assembly.

And last, the CFA Assembly voted its support for two major projects which grew out of several Board discussions since the current contract went into effect. The first, "Building a Stronger CFA," involves reexamination and improvement of governance structures, elections, chapter infrastructures, communications between CFA officers and the membership, alliances with other organizations, etc. It includes an "Ask 2000 Campaign," launched by the CFA Membership and Organizing Committee and to be conducted from the beginning of November through the end of February. During that period each chapter is expected to talk to at least 25 percent of all nonmembers on its campus and ask them to join CFA. The goal is to recruit 500 new members by the end of the academic year.

The second project, "The Future of the CSU: Regaining a University for the People of California," is to redefine and enhance the public role of CFA, to involve it in the public debate about policies affecting higher education in the state, to contribute to hearings about revisions of the Master Plan for Higher Education, and to bring faculty expertise to bear on any efforts aimed at reforming the California State University. This project is to culminate in a state-wide conference in the year 2000-2001, "intended to articulate key components of a university dedicated to quality education and practical priorities towards their realization."•

H. Dieter Renning
CSU-ERFA liaison to CFA

Prescription Copayment Increases in Retiree Health Plans

SEVERAL OF THE STUDIES READ BY THE WORK GROUP indicate that there is likely to be a significant difference in the way that copayment increases affect the older population in the retiree plans, compared to the younger population in the active employee health plans.

Persons in poor health tended to be heavy consumers of prescription drugs and were vulnerable to the economic impact of the increase in copayment. Medicaid recipients filled five fewer prescriptions annually than their counterparts in non-copayment states. Those in fair health reported 40 percent fewer prescriptions than their counterparts in non-copayment states. If patients reduce use of essential prescriptions it can result in poor health and increased use of other health services. Those with low retirement incomes in the CalPERS health plans or those with other pressing needs may react in a similar way.

In the Alan Hillman article, a higher copayment was associated with lower spending on prescription drugs in the IPA models. When the copayment was raised from \$5.00 to \$7.50 there was a 12.5 percent reduction in drug spending. In the network (capitated) plans, it resulted in a decrease of only 3.4 percent in drug spending. The authors felt that it was critical to determine the effect on health outcomes. Their study involved a middle-class non-elderly population.

The Susan Horn study examined the effects of formulary limitations and therapeutic substitution (related but chemically different compound) on the elderly. They found significant associations between formulary limitations at the drug class level and any hospitalization for some diseases. They also found that greater formulary restrictions are associated with higher resource utilization among older pa-

tients.

These studies raise serious questions about instituting higher copayments in the senior plans. If they were added to the existing restrictions in the managed care plans, such as formulary restrictions and capitation of physician groups, which already provide an incentive to restrict the type and amount of drugs prescribed, the outcome could have a negative effect on health status.

The retiree health plans are marked by other differences from the active employee plans. The employer contribution is based on the 100-90 formula, rather than on collective bargaining. They are actuarially independent and funded separately. If prescription costs rise, the premium will increase. Would this not spread the risk of higher drug costs over a broader base of retiree members, lessening the impact on the oldest (poorest) and sickest members?

All of this leads me to conclude that it is not a good idea to raise copayments in the retiree health plans. I do strongly support education of seniors, reduction of inappropriate prescribing at the doctor level, use of the pharmacy advisor, and other measures to control overuse, harmful drug interactions, and waste. •

Wilma Krebs

Insights

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt or a leaky tire.

No one is listening until you make a mistake.

If you lend someone \$20, and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

The things that come to those who wait are what's left behind by those who got there first.

Call for CSU-ERFA Grant Proposals

THE GRANT AWARDS COMMITTEE announces the call for proposals for grants for the year 2000. CSU-ERFA members are eligible to apply.

The CSU-ERFA Foundation fund proves financial support for the following purposes: (1) scholarly research of issues of importance to CSU retirees as contributing members of the academic community; (2) projects pertaining to the history of the institutions related to the California State University; (3) research projects that contribute to the quality of life of the university retiree; and (4) research and creative projects that are of benefit to a given academic discipline.

The grant awards committee is pleased to report that there is considerable interest among CSU-ERFA members in the program. To date the committee has received several proposals. Applications for grant funds may be made by calling the CSU-ERFA office at 818-718-7996. We encourage your participation.

The deadline for applications is January 1, 2000. The awards will be announced April 1, 2000. •

Maxwell C Norton, chair,
grant awards committee.

Save the Date

Plan now to attend CSU-ERFA's 15th Anniversary Celebration April 29, 2000, in Los Angeles. The event will be conjunction with the spring meeting of the State Council. Details later.

CSU-ERFA's Delegate to the Academic Senate Reports

1. **Chair Gene Dinielli** reported at the September 1999 meeting:

a. A conference on "international education and global awareness in June called on the Senate to form a committee to continue support for international education. The executive committee is acting on this.

b. There is concern that the positions in Sacramento by the CSU do not always coincide with Academic Senate positions. Have the senate's positions been considered?

c. Great pride is reflected in the concord whereby UC adds visual and performing arts to their entrance course requirements while the CSU adds one year each of laboratory science and social science. The freshman entrance requirements now are identical for the two universities.

d. Both Governor Davis and Gary Hart urge a community service requirement. As chair of the group that has been called upon to explore the issue, Chair Dinielli will recommend reference to the Senate and to the campus senates.

e. The faculty affairs committee will take up the question of a systemwide policy on centers and institutes.

2. **Susan Meisenhelder, President Of CFA**, reported:

a. Confusion about faculty merit increases on some campuses has resulted in CFA setting up monitoring committees on campuses.

b. She and Chancellor Reed have agreed to go together and ask the Governor for an increment to the CSU budget.

c. Cooperation with the Senate is better this year than last. She will be a liaison to the Senate, and Chair Dinielli will be a liaison to the CFA.

d. We have had several good conversations with the Chancellor on implementation.

e. There are real concerns about the

promise of six percent salary increases; only five percent is in the budget, with a one percent add-on.

3. **Executive Vice Chancellor David Spence** reported:

a. Vice Chancellor Spence apologized for asking for a three to four month turnaround on response to access and admission policies. We are being pressed for answers.

b. There are ten things that cannot be put off. They were in motion before he and Chancellor Reed got here: (1) technology, (2) accountability, (3) enrollment challenges, (4) remedial education, (5) articulation of lower division major requirements, (6) program length (the Governor wants 120 units, as in UC), (7) year-round operation, (8) community service, (9) academic freedom, and (10) faculty work-load.

Question: What is your evaluation of the articulation task forces?

Answer: The goal is to smooth the course for the junior college transfer student.

Question: Will the workload effort be central or dispersed?

Answer: Campus based, but we will look to you.

Question: Are not the teaching loads too high?

Answer: Perhaps, but we must communicate this to the public. Budgets are not always going to be as good as they are now. Workload is not our top priority; faculty compensation is.

4. **Davis Ernst, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Information Technology Services**, reported:

Though the cost of an integrated system is very high, it is cheaper than a stand-alone approach. Within five to seven years, all campuses will be wired in.

5. **John Richards, Budget Director**, reported:

We have been encouraged to prepare a budget consistent with a new "compact" or partnership agreement. There will be a four percent increase in

general funds plus a one percent addition for recognized deficiencies, plus one percent for closing the CPEC-identified salary gap. There probably won't be a fee increase. In the future, we should expect fees to increase at only the rate that per capita income in California increases.

6. **The Senate adopted:**

a. A resolution commending the Chancellor for his efforts in attaining an improved budget for 1999-2000.

b. A resolution supporting the proposed allocation of 2000-2001 lottery funds of \$1,046,500. It asks that funding for CSU summer arts program be moved to the regular budget, and that lottery funds be used only for directly supplementing educational projects.

c. A resolution supporting the Governor's community college teacher and reading development partnerships.

d. A motion approving the draft accountability document. This is a request that campus senates respond to their presidents with copies to the CSU Senate and Vice Chancellor Spence.

e. A motion asking the chancellor not to renew the admission experiment at Sonoma State when it expires in November. The experiment simply left admission application dates open longer than those mandated by the CSU on the theory that minority students apply late. Apparently it didn't work.

f. A motion pertaining to the collaborative management system. The Chancellor is urged to seek alternative funding sources, and it is asked that campuses be asked to spend no more than they are now spending for information systems.

g. A resolution requesting that campus senates consider the Governor's request for a community service graduation requirement with a response to the CSU senate by Feb. 1. It is asked that they focus on resource use, liability issues, time to degree, and faculty-staff workload.

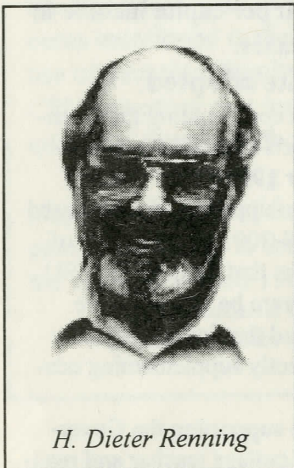
Donald Moore

Liaison to the Academic Senate

"Fair Share": How Does it Work?

SB 645 (Burton/Villaraigosa) amends the "Higher Education Employee Relations Act" (HEERA), by requiring all employees of the CSU (and UC, except faculty eligible for Academic Senate membership) to pay the exclusive representative (CFA in the case of CSU faculty) a "fair share service fee." While the law states that the fee "shall

cover the cost of negotiation, contract administration, and other activities of the employee organization that are germane to its functions as the exclusive bargaining representative," it leaves it up to the organization to calculate those costs and determine the fee amount accordingly. Once the employer has been notified, the fee will be deducted from the employee's salary and transferred to the organization.



H. Dieter Renning

Initially, all fees will be placed in escrow for the length of time during which fee payers can challenge the basis for the fee calculation. After the challenge period, all fees from those who did not file a challenge then can be spent. For the challengers, the fee amount will be set, for that year, by an arbitrator and, if the arbitrator has reduced the amount, only the challengers will receive a rebate. Individual employees can be exempted from paying the fee if they are members of a group "that has historically held conscientious objections to joining or financially supporting public employee organizations," but can be required to pay an equivalent sum to a charitable fund, chosen from a list of funds which the employer and exclusive representative have agreed upon.

The fair share arrangement can be rescinded by a majority vote of all employees who are subject to it, provided that 30 percent of all members of the bargaining unit petition for such a rescission election within the academic year. There can only be one such election while a given bargaining contract is in effect. •

[HDR]

Visit the CSU-ERFA Website
<http://www.csun.edu/~ea20557/>
Includes the Reporter on the Web

Life in Retirement—

Don Cameron (Nor) will join the senior administrative team in January at Zayed University, a new university created for women in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He will help write policies for faculty recruitment, evaluation, retention, and related issues.

Joann Sandlin (SD) was recognized recently as "Volunteer of the Year" for her work in patient care, fund raising, and community education for the San Diego Hospice.

June Pollak (Ful) was the featured speaker at the fall luncheon of the Emeriti Association of CSU Los Angeles where she addressed whether or not emeriti should be activists for or guardians of academic freedom and tenure.

Mary Huber (LA), at age 91, is active as public relations officer for the Greater Palm Springs Council of the Navy League. She has been on the council's executive board for 25 years and produces the quarterly newsletter.

Donald Dewey (LA) addressed the State Society for the Daughters of the American Republic recently, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington.

George Gunkle (Nor) publishes a monthly column, "Santa Clarita Valley Living," in the *Santa Clarita Signal*.

Bayard Brattstrom (Ful) is building a solar-based, straw-bale house on the top of a mesa in the desert near Signal, Arizona. •

Incidental Legislative Action

AB 817. This bill changes the funding for the Legislators' Retirement System (LRS). Although Proposition 130 imposed term limits and closed LRS to all future legislators, it allowed all constitutional officers like governor, treasurer, and controller to continue to participate in the retirement system. Since legislators never wanted the public to know just how much LRS really cost, they never fully funded it so that it was underfunded for years. PERS found that LRS is now overfunded and this bill gives the PERS Board the ability to adjust the LRS rate as needed. Specifically, the bill allows the Board to reduce the member contribution (or eliminate it) when the system is fully funded. The result of that is having people elected to these Constitutional offices and getting a free retirement without ever contributing to it.

Governor Davis approved the bill on October 9, 1999. •

We Get Letters—

... I thus would respond to President Robert Maurer's question (April 1999), "Are there long range projects we should be planning?" by saying a key one would be for the *Reporter* to take a neutral editorial view on contentious political issues, rather than to assume, as it usually does, that all retired professors are liberals or left-wingers. .

As to other of Maurer's questions, I would say the ERFA should assume the new responsibility of informing the public about the true causes why certain racial groups are underrepresented on CSU campuses.

In the area of health information, I would suggest that the Reporter summarize the experimental research into diseases of the aging, and medication that remedies them, so that when we visit physicians we are forearmed.

Patrick Groff
San Diego



This summer we went up to the Friday Harbor Laboratories of the University of Washington and I worked on research funded by ERFA on ascidian sperm surface enzymes involved in fertilization. I made quite a bit of progress on this work and Gretchen [Mrs. Lambert] identified 3 previously unidentified ascidians. . . . We are now back in Seattle where Gretchen just finished a report on the Alaska ascidians and is now working on a collection from New Zealand. I am working on a manuscript based in part on my ERFA-funded research on the sperm surface enzymes. We already have a busy schedule for the millennium beginning with a trip to Guam and Palau January-March. . . . Retirement is much busier than we thought!

Charles C. Lambert
Seattle, WA 98177

News from the CSU—

•The California State University Board of Trustees in October approved the 2000-01 support budget increase of nearly \$244.4 million or 8.1 percent more than the current year. The top two priorities in the budget request are access for students and compensation. The request would bring the total CSU base budget to \$3.2 billion.

•The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) projections indicate that CSU enrollment will increase by 117,000 undergraduate students—or 42 percent—over the next decade. In addition, the CSU has grown by 31,000 students since 1995.

•The California State University and high schools throughout the state have received \$9 million to establish or expand efforts to reduce the number of students who need remedial education.

•More than two-thirds of California State University students use computers everyday and 75 percent of the students said they possess excellent computer skills, according to a CSU student survey.

•At CSU Fresno, a new collection of emeritus faculty photographs is on permanent display in the School of Education and Human Development. The 44 professors in the photos were with the university since the early 1950s, when the school moved from the present Fresno City College campus.

A Wunnerful Way with Words

I just wrote a book, but don't go out and buy it, because I don't think it's finished yet.

There are good days and there are bad days, and this is one of them.

Lawrence Welk

CSU-ERFA Balance Sheet As of June 30, 1999

Assets

Petty cash	50.00
Cash—checking	21,348.93
Cash—savings	4,535.81
CDs	62,502.02
CSU Foundation	13,936.15

Total **102,372.91**

Liabilities

Payroll tax	977.60
Equity	101,395.31

Total **102,372.91**

Membership Brochure—

CSU-ERFA has prepared a new brochure directed to prospective members.

A supply will be sent to each of the campus affiliates—more are available from the ERFA office.

About one-half of the CSU retirees are now members. Let's all do our part in "spreading the good word" about membership in the organization.

Facts about the CalPERS Retirement Program

Number of retirees, beneficiaries, and survivors now receiving monthly allowances: 331,622

Average monthly allowance: \$1,224

Avg. years of service for retirees: 16.5

Avg. age at retirement (service): 60

Total retirement benefits paid in 1997-98: \$4.4 billion

Executive Committee 1999-2000

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Ronald A. Kroman (Long Beach)
vice president

C. Dale Johnson (San Diego) *secretary*

Sol Buchalter (Northridge) *treasurer*

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liaison to CSU Senate

Sidney Albert (Los Angeles) *liaison to
California Conference of AAUP*

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The Retiree Center

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7th International Conference on Retirement in Higher Education

**The US Grant Hotel
San Diego, California**

May 27-29, 2000

**Hosted by San Diego State
University Retirement
Association**

The goals of the conference are to improve existing higher education retirement associations and retirement centers; to share ideas for the development of new higher education retirement associations and centers; to gain ideas for retirement planning and retirement education in higher education institutions.

For more information, write

Aubrey Wendling, 5516 Dorothy
Dr., San Diego, CA 92115
wendling@mail.sdsu.edu 619-286-
3807

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