



REPORTER

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

President Robert Maurer Reelected; Reports on the State Council

THE STATE COUNCIL OF CSU-ERFA met in San Francisco May 1, 1999, with 41 members in attendance. Some were there because of their office or position, such as members of the Executive Committee, standing committee chairs, delegates-at-large, honorary members and liaisons to CFA, AAUP, and the CSU Academic Senate. Others were delegates selected by the several local affiliates.

I say all of this to raise a point about affiliate representation. On the list of State Council members who had indicated that they would be attending several of the affiliates appeared with no delegate. This led to people coming to me saying, "I am here representing my affiliate." And I would say to them "No, you are here because you are a committee chair (or whatever) and while you probably can also speak for your affiliate they are entitled to a delegate whose expenses are paid by the association." Most of the affiliates are entitled to more than one delegate, but we pay the expenses of only one of them while the others can attend at the affiliates' expense using their rebate money. While this may seem like much ado about nothing, we want to see as many

members of the State Council as possible attending the meetings. After all, the State Council is the governing body of the organization.

Now that the sermon is over we can get down to business! **Wilma Krebs** reported on pending state legislation that would be of concern to us. Her report appears on page 4. She also commented on the possible changes to So-

cial Security that are being discussed in Washington, although after reading the newspapers I am not sure that "discussed" is the proper word. Wilma continues to do a remarkable job of keeping us informed about important health and retirement issues.

Jim Ryan, membership co-chair, reported that we are receiving applications as a result of two mailings to eligible retirees and that we now have nearly 2,800 members. Jim, who has shared the membership committee with me over the past year, to show the importance we place in having a strong membership, has agreed to serve as the chair of the committee next year. I have assured him that we will supply whatever assets he needs to do the job. Our voice is only as large as our membership and we are the only organization that serves



Pres. Maurer (r.) greets our new vice-president, Ronald Kroman

the special needs of retired CSU faculty.

One of the important responsibilities of the spring State Council is to choose the officers, committee chairs, at-large-members, and liaisons for the coming year (some are in a two- or three-year term and automatically carry over). I, of course, was honored to be asked to serve another term as president and I will try to take us into the new millennium with all the energy I can muster. All officers of the association for 1999-2000 are listed on page 3.

We used a different format for this meeting. In the past we have usually been all business or, in the case of our issues conference, all discussion. This time we managed to get our business done before lunch and afterwards formed into two groups: one concerning the status and future of Social Security and

(Continued on page 2)

*Through mutual respect
and planning we can find
the best means to provide for
the future of The California
State University.*

New Bargaining Agreement Signed and Ratified

JUST AS THE ACADEMIC YEAR CONCLUDED on the CSU campuses, the deadlock between CSU faculty and administration came to an end. On May 5 the California Faculty Association and the administration reached agreement on a new bargaining contract, and by May 26 the CFA membership throughout the system had voted in favor of ratification by an 80:20 margin. The Board of Trustees approved the contract on June 1.

This is a far different outcome from the one reported in the April issue of this publication when, in late February, a majority of CFA members rejected the tentative agreement (TA) which the two sides, after more than a year of frustrating negotiations had signed nearly a month earlier.

Several things have happened between rejection of the earlier and ratification of the new agreements. Shortly after the earlier vote the Trustees imposed "terms and conditions of employment" on the faculty (as they had the right to do under the bargaining law which governs the employment relationship between the faculty and the univer-

sity). From then on, faculty were in fact working without a contract. Those "terms and conditions" included the merit salary provisions which had been at the heart of the CFA-CSU disagreements.

At the same time intense discussions took place within the CFA leadership, on the campuses, and between CFA headquarters and the campus chapters, culminating in several resolutions passed by the CFA Delegate Assembly in March. The Assembly's most important action was the declaration of a "state of strike," authorizing the campus chapters to engage in a variety of job actions (such as mass picketing, teach-ins, and other activities). Simultaneously, many of the campus academic senates passed resolutions of no confidence in the chancellor.

All this activity must have made an impression, because on April 22 a CFA team, led by the newly elected president, Susan Meisenhelder, and the new vice president-elect, Jane Kerlinger, had a seven-hour meeting with Chancellor Reed and other representatives of the administration. This meeting was fol-

lowed by three more marathon sessions, leading to a new tentative agreement.

From the point of view of the faculty, it is a significant improvement over the earlier one, even though it still leaves important issues unresolved, such as the merit pay provision. This part of Article 31 has been revised, however, giving the faculty much greater control over the process and merit pay decisions. These decisions can now be appealed to a faculty committee, which has the power to make final and binding decisions. Salary schedules have been revised, bringing back steps, and salary adjustments have been revised upward. Department chairs remain in the bargaining unit, and counselors will now be eligible for sabbaticals. The improvements for lecturers, contained in the earlier TA, have been retained. (More details can be found at <http://www.calfac.org> and <http://www.calstate.edu>)

The new contract will be in effect for three years, from July 1, 1998, to June 30, 2001. •

H. Dieter Renning
CSU-ERFA liaison to CFA

(Continued from page 1)

Medicare and the positions we might take on the political proposals that might arise, and the other concerning the status and future of the CSU academic community and the positions we might take on the matters of policy and the conflict between the faculty and the administration. After about one-and-one-half hours of discussion we reassembled to hear reports.

By far the most engaging proposal was the one from the discussion group that recommended sending a letter to the Chancellor, with copies to the trustees, identifying ourselves, establishing our standing in the matter and expressing our concern for the situation that has developed between the faculty and the administration. While the whole

letter was longer, I quote only the last two paragraphs as providing the essence of our concern.

"As continuing members of the CSU academic community, many of our members expressed their deep concern about the recent decline in understanding between you and the faculty. They were greatly distressed to hear from a number of active faculty members who interpreted some of your public statements as disparaging of their professional abilities and their commitment to work. Although we are aware of your later remarks attempting to ameliorate the reactions to your public comments and of the very recent successful cooperation between your office and the California Faculty Association that appears to have produced a much more

acceptable agreement, some of our members remain unconvinced that your prevailing and continuing view of the CSU faculty is as fully supportive as it might be.

"We urge you to consider the appearance of the way in which you seem to view the faculty, and we hope you will publicly describe with positive support and recognition the faculty and their work. You and the Trustees should be more sensitive to the leadership environment the faculty must have in order to carry forward their teaching, scholarship, and service. Through mutual respect and planning we can find the best means to provide for the future of The California State University. •"

Robert Maurer, *president*
rmaurer@csuchico.edu

CSU-ERFA Officers for 1999-2000

Executive Committee:

President: Robert Maurer (Chico)
 Vice president: Ronald Kroman (LB)
 Secretary: C. Dale Johnson (SD)
 Treasurer: Sol Buchalter (Nor)
 Past President: Emmett Long (Ful)
 Reporter editor: Ralph Bigelow (Ful)

Members-at-Large:

Milton Dobkin (Hum) 1998 - 2000
 Eleanor Price (DH) 1998 - 2000
 David Elliott (SJ) 1999 - 2001
 Wilma Krebs (Sac) 1999 - 2001

Executive Director: Robert Kully (LA)

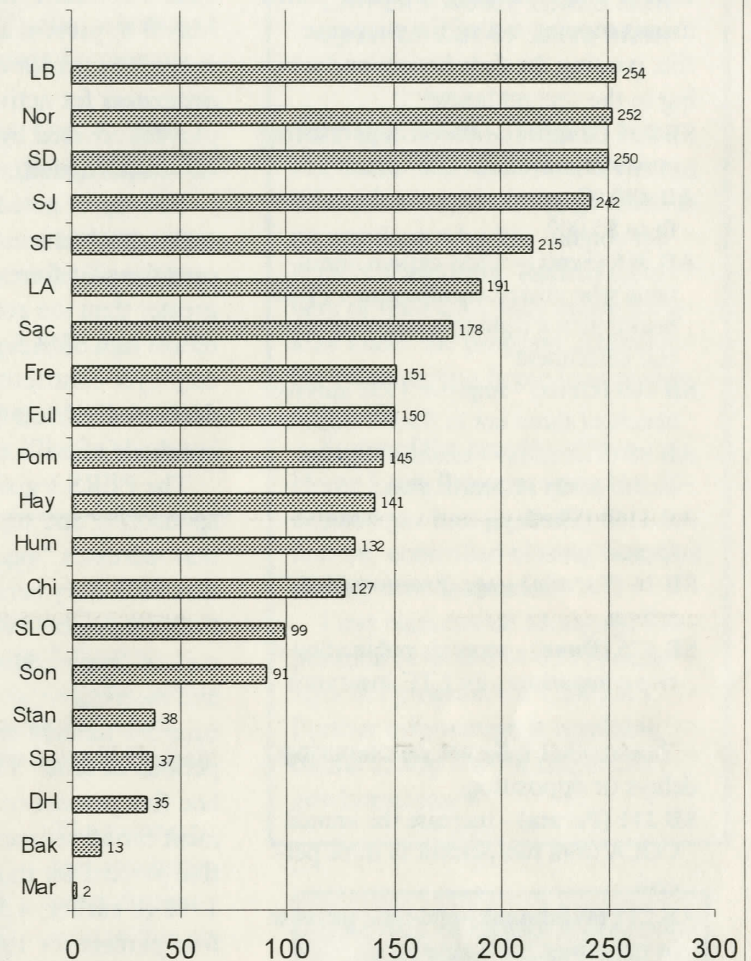
Standing Committee Chairs:

Dispersed Membership: Hal Barrett (Hay)
 Legislative: Wilma Krebs (Sac)
 Membership: James E. Ryan (LB)
 Pre/Post Retirement: Kurt Bohnsack (SD)
 Publications: Ralph Bigelow (Ful)
 Foundation Grant Awards: Max Norton (Stan)

State Council Delegates-at-Large:

June Pollak (Ful) 1997 - 2000
 Judson Grenier (DH) 1997 - 2000
 *Frieda Stahl (LA) 1999 - 2000
 Robert Gronendyke (SLO) 1998 - 2001
 Gordon Stanton (SB) 1998 - 2001
 Mark Van Aken (Hay) 1998 - 2001
 Don Cameron (Nor) 1999 - 2002
 Frank Tennant ((Pom) 1999 - 2002
 Jerome Beamish (Stan) 1999 - 2002
 *Replaces David Elliott

CSU-ERFA Membership as of May 28, 1999



Publication Schedule for the Reporter, 1999-2000

September issue	Copy due August 6, 1999
December issue	Copy due October 22, 1999
March issue	Copy due February 4, 2000
June issue	Copy due May 5, 2000

In 1999-2000, the Reporter will change from an October-July schedule to a September-June cycle to coordinate with State Council meetings.



Kroman



Elliott



Barrett



Beamish



Renning

The Legislative Committee Reports, Wilma Krebs, Chair

LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY CSU-ERFA that is moving forward, which means moving out of the suspense file, passing the first house, and moving to the second house:

SB 234 (Hughes) - maintain purchasing power of retirement allowances

AB 428 (Correa) - increase death benefit to \$5,000

AB 366 (Scott) - allow certain annuitants who missed enrolling in a PERS health plan a right to a one-time special enrollment

SB 400 (Ortiz) - improve 1959 survivor benefits (those not in Social Security)

AB 88 (Thomson) - establish mental health parity in health plans

AB 1160 (Shelley) - nursing home reforms

SB 26 (Escutia) - age discrimination reform

SB 475 (Dunn) - requires publication of rate comparisons for LTC insurance

Some other bills are encountering delays or opposition:

SB 311 (Perata) - increase the annual COLA from two percent to three percent

AB 227 (Wildman) - one-time increase in retirement allowance

SB 514 (Chesbro) - rural subsidy in areas with HMO withdrawals

One of the problems is the connection that exists with the PERS initiatives to redress inequities, in that several of the proposals would need to be incorporated in current legislative bills, such as AB 227. As discussed in the accompanying article on PERS, several of the initiatives may be determined to be subject to the collective bargaining process, rather than being accomplished solely by legislative action. The rural subsidy bill is being held up for lack of consensus on appropriate policies.

THE CALPERS BOARD HELD A SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING on May 3 to present a proposal *to redress inequities within existing retirement programs* for active and retired employees covered by CalPERS (emphasis added).

The report noted that returns on investments had averaged 17.5 percent over the past four years, significantly greater than the actuarially assumed return rate of 8.5 percent. CalPERS employer contribution rates have been decreased substantially, saving the state hundreds of millions of dollars.

The PERS legislative policy includes sponsoring and supporting legislation that redresses "inequitable, unfair or discriminatory benefits." For state retirees, they noted that the two percent cost-of-living adjustment is inadequate and inequitable, given that inflation has been 3.5 percent or more for extended periods of time. They proposed an ad hoc five percent cost-of-living adjustment for all retirees, later amended to five percent for those who retired in 1992 or earlier; 4.5 percent for 1993; four percent for 1994; three percent for 1995; two percent for 1996 and 1997; zero for 1998. This would be built into the base. Retirees already receiving Purchasing Power Parity Adjustment (PPPA) would not receive any reduction in the existing two percent COLA because of the ad hoc increase.

There were similar provisions for schools, public agencies and other PERS members. In addition, there were proposals to remedy the inadequacy of the Tier 2 retirement plan, providing that all current and future employees would have an opportunity to enroll in Tier 1 (CSU retirees are in Tier 1).

Representatives of practically all employee and retiree groups responded

enthusiastically. Some public agency groups felt they needed more time but did not wish to hold things up for those who could benefit by going ahead.

The resolutions were scheduled for vote at the Board meetings May 18 and 19. However, when the item came up, Board President Bill Crist moved to defer action until the June 15 meeting. The audience was stunned. The explanation that emerged was that the governor and the Department of Personnel Administration believed that some of the items were within the scope of collective bargaining. A majority of the Board voted to defer action until June.

The CalPERS Board met on June 16 and directed staff to introduce legislation to provide a one-time cost-of-living adjustment for all state retirees according to the following retirement dates:

Dec. 31, 1992 and earlier,	5.0%
Jan. 1, 1993 - Dec. 31, 1993,	4.5%
Jan. 1, 1994 - Dec. 31, 1994,	4.0%
Jan. 1, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1995,	3.0%
Jan. 1, 1996 - effective date of legislation	2.0%

This will be incorporated in an existing bill, SB 400 (Ortiz), and must go through the legislative process and be signed by the governor. Some changes may be made to this and other portions of the benefit equity measure.

The one-time COLAs enter into the base, so next year's two percent COLA will be on top of these. (We urge you to write to the governor and members of the Assembly to support the CalPERS benefit equity improvements.)

In other news, it was announced at the board meeting that Bob Carlson has been declared elected as the retiree representative on the board since he had no opposition. ●

[See page 5 of this issue for a report on health care premium increases.]

HMO Premiums Increase

CALPERS STAFF REPORTED THAT BASIC HMO PREMIUM RATES are up an average of 9.7 percent from last year. But Medicare HMOs are up 70.1 percent. (Kaiser is up 110 percent, admittedly from a low base.) Some of the reasons given: Medicare payments to HMOs have been trimmed and prescription medicine prices continue to rise 15-20 percent a year. For the Medicare coordinated plans, PERSCare went up 12.6 percent and PERSChoice went up 12.3 percent (See accompanying chart).

The good news is that the employer contribution rose from \$180 to \$181 for a single person and from \$333 to \$343 for a couple. So those with less expensive plans still get all or most of their Medicare Part B reimbursed.

One new plan, Universal Care, has been added. Omni dropped out, after persistent financial losses. Service area withdrawals continue, leaving Tuolumne County with no HMO for the year 2000. Health Net will pull out of Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Shasta. Lifeguard will be out of Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced (partial) and Tuolumne. Maxicare will be out of Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo counties. Health Plan of the Redwoods is out of Lake County. To provide more stability for members, CalPERS has negotiated multiyear contracts with half of the HMOs. Out-of-state, PacificCare has new contracts for Arizona and Nevada.

Quality improvements include contractual requirement for independent third-party review whenever health care services have been denied, significantly delayed, and a requirement that health plans use the prudent layperson standard in determining whether emergency services, including emergency transportation, are provided by the plan.

On the mental health front, the PERS Board voted to support both AB 88 (Thomson) and SB 468 (Perata) to provide parity for mental health coverage in all health plans. Your representative was instrumental in getting the board to move from a neutral to a support position on these bills. Arguments presented include the finding that many mental illnesses are rooted in biological disorders, that the cost of parity is quite low, and that it is the right thing to do. Our support was reported in the Sacramento Business Journal in late May.



Wilma Krebs, legislative chair

CalPERS Health Benefits Program 2000 Proposed Premiums

Medicare Coordinated Plans

Carrier	1 party	2 party	3 party
Cigna	75.00	150.00	225.00
Kaiser	98.18	196.36	294.54
PacificCare (CA)	99.05	198.10	297.15
Universal Care	103.66	207.31	310.97
Aetna US Healthcare	104.67	209.34	314.01
HealthNet	125.35	250.70	376.05
Maxicare	148.62	297.24	445.86
HP Redwoods	154.81	309.62	464.43
Lifeguard	161.82	323.63	485.45
PORAC	198.00	396.00	594.00
CCPOA	205.01	410.02	615.03
CAHP	206.13	375.96	464.97
Blue Shield HMO	208.82	417.64	626.46
PERSChoice	212.00	424.00	636.00
PERSCare	223.00	446.00	669.00

Out-of-State Plans

PacificCare (AZ)	75.00	150.00	225.00
PacificCare (NV)	87.40	174.80	349.42
Aetna (IL)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Aetna (NY/NJ)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Aetna (TX)	n/a	n/a	n/a

Nancy Cheeks Administrative Assistant

We reported the appointment of Nancy Cheeks as CSU-ERFA's administrative assistant in the last issue of the *Reporter*. But at that time we did not have a photo of her. We are pleased to repeat the announcement—with the photo.

Cheeks is a graduate of CSU Northridge and is enrolled in the master's program there, in English.



Public & Private Pensions

RALPH SEGALMAN, a CSU-ERFA member from Northridge, took issue with James Burton, chief executive officer of CalPERS, quoted in the last issue of the *Reporter*, who said in that release "The statements by some politicians that public pension funds fare worse than private funds . . . are inaccurate and misleading."

Segalman's point was that the release failed "to make the crucial distinction between (1) public pension agencies generally and (2) the PERS and similar programs in particular." CalPERS, as noted by Segalman, is different in that the individual beneficiary-pensioner is vested and that the people who watch over the fund are elected by the members.

CalPERS response: Our efforts to distinguish CalPERS and other public pension funds in general were borne out of what we perceived to be gross misstatements by critics of the President's proposal to invest social security dollars in the stock market. CalPERS has not taken a position on the merits of this proposal, but it was clear that public pension funds were unfairly maligned in the crossfire of debate over this proposal. Our interest was in correcting the record on that specific point. We want our members to know and appreciate that their benefits are secure and that the investment strategies we employ meet the highest standards of excellence.

We agree wholeheartedly with your point that members of a system who elect a Board of Administration are in a stronger position to exert a voice than they would be if the responsibility for administration was with a single trustee. . . .

Our intent was to put an end to the myth that private pension plans earn more for their members than public plans. (In fact, a five-year history of public pension systems shows that they earned a slightly higher rate of return than private plans.) Ultimately, it is not whether the plans are public or private, but its success is based on investment strategies. •

Social Security, Medicare Bankruptcy Delayed

New forecasts showing that Medicare and Social Security are not going broke as fast as anticipated give policy makers more breathing space as they try to reform the programs to cope with the high costs of "Baby Boomers" retirement.

Compared with last year's forecasts, the Social Security and Medicare Trustees 1999 report extended the Medicare trust fund by a surprising seven years, to 2015, and postponed the likely bankruptcy of the Social Security trust fund by an estimated two years, to 2034.

The booming U.S. economy contributed to the financial health of the two programs for U.S. retirees, partly because they depend on payroll taxes, which rise in boom times.

Reforming Social Security and Medicare is a top priority of both President Clinton and the Republican-controlled Congress. But they are miles apart philosophically on how to proceed.

If recent history is any clue, the good economic news and declining sense of urgency may make it even less likely that Congress will reach a bipartisan agreement this year, and Medicare could again emerge as a big issue in the 2000 congressional and presidential elections. • [Adapted from Reuters and the Trustees Report]

Life in Retirement: News about Members

DON DEWEY (LA) was keynote speaker for the California State Society for the Daughters of the American Republic Southern Council Meeting at Ontario, and for the Northern Council Meeting at San Jose recently. His lecture commemorating the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington was "George Washington: The Essence of Essential." In 1998 Dewey published "The Federalist and Antifederalist Papers," (Claremont, Ca.: Regina Books).

ROBERT GRONENDYKE (SON) will be part of the "next generation" of Peace corps volunteers serving overseas in the new millennium. Gronendyke this time will serve in Romania, having previously volunteered in Honduras. In Romania he will work on community development projects after an intensive technical, language, and cross-cultural training.

HELEN CHASE BOTNARESCU (HAY) received an Alumni Citation last month from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, for distinguished service to her profession, community, and alma mater by volunteer teaching in Taipei and Vietnam since her retirement. •



The Coal Miner: A news item this morning was about a local coal miner. It seems that his avocation was painting, but since he couldn't afford to buy canvasses he simply painted on the wall of his small cottage. Unfortunately, a gang of youths

broke into his cottage earlier this week and defaced his paintings. Yesterday the young miscreants were charged in court with having . . . "corrupted the murals of a miner." [Thanks to Thos. Ervin, Univ. Arizona]

Executive Committee Approves Schedule for CSU-ERFA Grant Awards

CSU-ERFA ENCOURAGES ITS MEMBERS in good standing to submit proposals for grants in the year 2000 to support research and creative projects. These could include: scholarly research proposals that contribute to the quality of life of CSU retirees and publication endeavors of retirees as continuing member of the academic community.

Members are encouraged to get in touch with the CSU-ERFA office or consult with their campus affiliate representative for copies of proposal guidelines.

Please note the following schedule for processing proposals for the year 2000 awards:

- Call for proposals: Oct. 1, 1999
- Deadline for submitting proposals: Jan. 1, 2000
- Committee recommendations submitted to the Executive Committee: Feb. 15, 2000
- Notification of awards: Apr. 1, 2000.

Maxwell C. Norton, chair,
Grants and Awards Committee

Member-at-Large Milt Dobkin Reports:

THE CFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS meeting in June was devoted largely to an introspective session on the recently concluded collective bargaining contract for CSU faculty.

CFA board members discussed what was done well in the campaign, what might be done better next time, new elements added to the campaign this time (and assessment of effectiveness), how to build on the activism that was developed, and a review of ratification results by campus.

Considerable attention was paid to reports on why the 20 percent (an average which masked a much higher total on some campuses) who voted against ratification did so.

The prospects for passage by the legislature of the "fair share" bill

(agency shop fee for non-CFA members), also received much discussion, along with the prospects for the governor to sign it (Wilson vetoed it last time), and the options being discussed for implementation.

The two matters receiving most discussion in this regard were whether the bill would require an election before fee establishment, or a review election after a four year trial period, and what sort of "acceptance"

effort should be undertaken to persuade opponents to such an arrangement to endorse it.

Finally, of special interest to CSU-ERFA members, the committee on retired faculty chair (Milt Dobkin) reminded the board of the need to return to the effort to provide "enhanced" rather than "basic" dental coverage to



Dobkin with Delegate Mark Van Aken

Adios, California

CalPERS Home Loans Now Open to Out-of-State Members

THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM now offers home mortgage loans to its members who live outside the state of California. Retired members of CalPERS may apply for a loan under the program. Refinancing of an exiting home loan is also available.

Some of the benefits of the Home Loan Program include a 60-day interest rate protection lock-in feature, controlled closing fees, and closing cost assistance.

First Nationwide Mortgage Corporation (1-800-874-7377) manages the program for CalPERS. Further information is available online at <http://www.calpers.ca.gov/homeloan/>•

The lack of money is the root of all evil—Mark Twain

faculty retirees. The board had previously endorsed such an effort and it was supposed to be included in the bargaining this time. The nature of bargaining conditions, however, did not make even consideration of a contract "side letter" feasible.

Further, it was the opinion of the outgoing chair of both the committee on membership and organization and bargaining campaign organizing (Tim Sampson) that separate legislative action was the better way to go to achieve success on the matter.

Dobkin urged the CFA officers to review the matter of dental coverage and coordinate its best effort on it with CSU-ERFA. •

Academic Senate Actions

THE ACADEMIC SENATE MET IN BOTH MARCH AND MAY this spring. Much of the time at the earlier meeting was spent with discussion with **Chancellor Reed** and Trustee **Joan Otomo-Corgel** on the then ongoing contract negotiations. Senators probed especially some of the public comments of the chancellor that had been viewed as unsupportive of faculty, most notably those made in March before a special meeting of the president's cabinet at San Luis Obispo (the transcript of Reed's SLO remarks may be seen at <http://www.calpoly.edu/~communic/news-releases/ltrs-speech.html>). Chancellor Reed replied to the criticism, and his reply is published along with the transcript.

The Senate at the March meeting adopted several resolutions: (1) delaying action on Cornerstones until the contract is ratified; (2) endorsing enabling legislation to provide benefits to domestic partners; (3) opposing to imposition of terms and conditions by the CSU; (4) endorsing a development at Chico that provides student access to programs that may be completed at more than one campus; (5) endorsing the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Commission's process to revise its standards of accreditation and the policies and procedures; (6) a complex resolution dealing with funding associated with AB 126 (Runner) that addresses year-round operation, especially funding affecting faculty workload; and (7) supporting SB 58 (Hayden), Service for Postsecondary Students, which provides for a statewide center for administering grants to establish service learning centers on campuses of the CSU, UC, and the community colleges.

NEW OFFICERS OF THE SENATE were chosen at the May meeting. They are: **Gene Dinielli** (LB), chair; **Jacquelyn Kegley** (Bak), vice chair; **Lester Pincu** (Fre), secretary; **Vince Buck** (Ful) and **Raford Boddy** (SD), executive committee members-at-large.

Susan Meisenhelder, CFA president, reported on the faculty contract agreement finally reached and expressed gratitude to the statewide and local senate members for their support. She also answered the many questions about the contract, especially the provisions dealing with merit pay.

Vice Chancellor **David Spence** reported to the Senate that two persons helped the contract negotiation process to be successful: Susan Meisenhelder and the Chancellor. He also stressed work on the state budget (faculty salaries, technology, outreach), standards, Cornerstones, and accountability before answering questions from the members..

The Senate adopted the schedule of meetings for 1999-2000 as well as resolutions on implementing Cornerstones; establishing a faculty compensation task force (in consultation with CFA); budget priorities for 2000-2001; supporting a trial basis for the Cal State Teach Project; opposing AB 126 (provides for year round operation), preferring a more thorough planning process with full funding; addressing legislation dealing with articulation agreements; responding to Gov. Davis' plan for required public service by students; opposing SB 338 requiring notice before discontinuing any athletic program (conflict seen with Title IX); endorsing the lottery fund review committee; requiring a writing proficiency test for credential candidates more rigorous than CBEST or GEAR; and urging funding to close the salary gap identified by CPEC.

The May Meeting was interrupted by a bomb scare in the new headquarters building that fortunately proved to be a false alarm.●

[This account of the Academic Senate actions was adapted by the editor from the detailed reports of the CSU-ERFA liaison to the Senate, Don Moore. Any errors or misinterpretations are the responsibility of the editor and not Prof. Moore.]

Welcome to New Members of CSU-ERFA

Chico: Robert G. Main, Michael R. McGie, Engene D. Thomas

Fresno: Marcia E. Bedard, Mary L. Maughelli

Hayward: Alvin H. Jones, Jr., Dorothy H.

Southard: Richard W. Vrmeer

Humboldt: Edgar L. Squires, Jr.

Long Beach: Dieter K. Muller-Stach

Los Angeles: Samuel M. Caplin, Thomas H. Peterson

Northridge: Olga J. Adderley, Verne L. Bryant, Richard L. Potter

Sacramento: Robert S. Smart

San Diego: H. Warren Ross

San Francisco: Arthur L. France, Robert J. Lewis, Donna Ryan

San Jose: Gertrude B. Corcoran

San Luis Obispo: Om P. Bali

Sonoma: Betty Emblen

News from CalPERS...

THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM has named four of the nation's leading health care consulting firms to advise the system on health care issues. Deloitte & Touche was named as CalPERS' primary health benefits consultant, replacing Watson Wyatt Worldwide, who will continue as one of the consultants on specialized projects. The other three pre-qualified consultants in the new pool are William M. Mercer, Towers Perrin, and Deloitte & Touche. The primary consultant, Deloitte & Touche, will advise CalPERS on the purchasing of \$1.7 billion per year in health benefits for more than one million public employees, retirees, and their dependents at 1,232 state and local public agencies throughout California.

In the wake of Omni Healthcare's announcement that the Sacramento-based HMO will be going out of business by the end of this year, the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) has announced procedures to assure a smooth transition for the 15,000 CalPERS members currently enrolled in Omni.

Omni will be phasing out its operations over the next six months, based on the terms of their various contracts. For CalPERS members, Omni has agreed to continue providing full coverage through December 31, 1999. Omni members do not have to do anything until the annual open enrollment period, September 1 through October 15. At that time, CalPERS members currently enrolled in Omni will be asked to choose another health plan. That choice becomes effective January 1, 2000. •

News from CSU...

THE NUMBER OF ENTERING FRESHMEN REQUIRING REMEDIATION in mathematics and English leveled off at 54 percent and 47 percent in 1998. The 1998 numbers are a clearer picture of the level of college readiness of high school seniors entering CSU. Ninety-nine percent of the entering freshmen were tested, whereas in 1997 only 90 percent took the placement tests.

CSU SAN MARCOS celebrated a milestone by graduating its first students who entered the university as freshmen. Three students who accelerated their studies fulfilled requirements in less than four years. They joined a large group of the first freshman class of 345 who received their degrees in May. •

In Memoriam

Bakersfield: Meryl H. Ruoss

Chico: Keith E. Bowen, Dwight W. Shannon

Fresno: M. Bruce Fisher, Donald E. Holmes

Fullerton: Richard C. Gilbert, Danton B. Sailor

Hayward: C. Jack Lutt

Humboldt: William Thonson, William Vinyard

Long Beach: Honore Dash, Cliff W. Hill

Los Angeles: Hector Soto Perez

Northridge: Wallace Graves, Ruth L. Halpert

Pomona: Oliver A. Batcheller, Robert C. Kramer

Sacramento: James Adair

San Diego: Denis A. Flagg, W. Wallace

Harned, Leroy A. Harper, Elsie

Herman, Jaroslav Mracek, Clay M. Sharts, Deane Smith

San Francisco: Claude J. Coppenger

San José: Elma Isabel Bradley, James J.

Clark, Leonard Feldman, Shirley

Hömfeld, Joyce Malone, Ruth M. Sutton

San Luis Obispo: Robert K. Sater, Maruice Wilks

Stanislaus: Paul V. Benko (reported earlier under San Francisco)

CSU-ERFA makes a contribution to a memorial fund, held by the CSU Foundation, in memory of each of its deceased members. The funds are used for research into concerns of retirees



Aids for Assessing Long-Term Care Facilities

"How to Get Care from a Board and Care Home." \$3. Bet Tzadek Legal Services, 145 S. Fairfax, Los Angeles 90036

California Assisted Living Facilities Association. Free brochure: CALFA, 455 Capitol Mall, Sacramento 95814

Visit CSU-ERFA's Web Site

<http://www.csun.edu/~ea20557/>

Includes the Reporter on the Web

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We Get Letters...

I thought you might be interested in my first attempt to use Quest. I have become quite skeptical about so-called "50% off" hotel discounts advertised with Entertainment cards, etc., because they refer to the "rack rate" posted by hotels and have nothing to do with reality. If you walk in off the street you can get a much lower rate.

In March, my wife and I spent seven nights in New York City, a notoriously difficult place to find decent hotel prices. Applying at the Hotel President in central Manhattan, the best I could do with AAA or AARP discount was \$149 per night plus tax. I then called back and told them I was a Quest member and they gave me the same room for \$105. So, I saved \$51 per night or \$357 with Quest. It *really* saved me a bundle!

Herb Rutemiller
Fullerton

CA 90266

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