



Publication of the California  
State University  
Emeritus and  
Retired Faculty  
Association

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## CalPERS Approves Health Cost Increases as of 1/1/08

The CalPERS Health Benefits Committee and the CalPERS Board considered the 2008 Basic Plan (for active employees) at their May 15-16 meetings. None of the changes affects members of the CalPERS Medicare plans. The Committee and Board will deal with 2008 Medicare Part D options and Health Maintenance (HMO) benefits and overall rates at the June 19 and 20 meetings.

At the May 15th Health Benefits committee meeting, member Charles Valdez stated, "... every year in my 26 years (on the CalPERS Board), there has been a staff recommendation to increase premiums on the workers, and I have never voted for such proposals; I, therefore, move that we reject the ... increases." Valdez' motion died for lack of a second.

The committee approved some of the increases.

Both the Health Benefits Committee and the full Board of Administration approved increasing the office visit co-payment from \$10 to \$15 while at the same time eliminating co-payments for certain preventive care services (periodic health exams, maternity care, well baby visits, allergy testing and treatment, immunizations, hearing evaluations, and pre/post-natal care). Both bodies also approved standardizing the Urgent Care co-payment at \$15 for all three plans (currently \$25 for Blue Shield, \$10 for Kaiser, \$20 for Western Health Alliance [WHA]) and limiting the out-of-pocket maximums across the three plans to \$1,500 for individuals

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## CSU-ERFA Endorses Henry Jones for CalPERS Retiree Board Seat

The Executive Committee of CSU-ERFA, after considering the qualifications of and information submitted by all three candidates, endorsed Henry Jones for the retired members's seat on the CalPERS Board in the election to take place between August 20th and September 28, 2007. Ballots will be mailed in advance. Only retired CalPERS members, not survivors or beneficiaries, may vote.

Henry Jones began his career with the LA Unified School Board as a custodian in 1960, attending LA Community College evenings and being active in the SEIU. He earned a BS in Business

Administration from Cal State LA and was promoted at LAUSD to deputy budget manager, budget manager, and chief financial officer, from which he retired in 1997. As CFO he administered a budget of \$7 billion, restoring the district to sound financial footing after the budget cuts of the 1990s.

The other candidates on the ballot are Susan Bergeron-Vance, who retired from the City of Santa Fe Springs as the finance director, and Perry Kenny, who retired from the State Board of Equalization and is former head of the California State Employees Association.

**CSU-Emeritus and  
Retired  
Faculty Association**

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2006-2007 & 2007-2008**

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Samuel Wiley (DH)	V.P.(06-07)
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Donald Cameron (NO)	Treas.(07-08)
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(2007-2008 Executive Committee  
takes office July 1, 2007)

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Don Cameron (NO)	Membership (06-07)
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William Blischke (DH)	Pre and Post-Retirement
Ted Anagnoson (LA)	Publications

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## From the President...

**What's An ERFA?** I was invited to speak about the accomplishments and goals of CSU-ERFA at the annual business meeting of the Emeriti Association of Cal State LA a few days after the April meeting of the State Council. After some clarification of the difference between the two organizations and their respective missions, the focus was primarily on important developments in health benefits, on pending state legislation, and on the present stability of our pension system followed by warnings that we must remain vigilant to future efforts, especially in an election year such as 2008, to weaken pension programs for public employees. These issues will be discussed more thoroughly elsewhere in *The Reporter*.

**Long-Term Care Insurance.** Regarding the turmoil required by the recent changes, I said that the timing for any comments I could make on this pressing issue was all wrong. Whereas CSU-ERFA's advocacy of this plan has long been one of our boasted achievements, I could hardly flaunt it at a time when our retired colleagues had been forced to make difficult and hurried decisions about maintaining their membership within an insurance program that was becoming more expensive or less protective, and sometimes both, because the company had learned what a long-lived bunch we are; in short, we seem too "long term."

My rationale for side-stepping this hot potato was something like: "Either you never enlisted in the program and don't even know what is upsetting your colleagues, or you have been paying for years and are now angry about being forced within thirty days to make hard decisions, without much advice, about the years for which you would receive this care or the amount that you are willing to pay for it." I was speaking on May 5 and most of my colleagues, like me, were forced to respond by May 4- even earlier to be sure the response arrived in St. Paul, MN by that date. I added that I hoped they had used the CSU-ERFA website to read the extensive information that we supplied. I had sent this advice earlier to the executive committee of the Emeriti Association,

because I had their email addresses, but of course not to the many emeriti for whom I had no email addresses.

**Advice on LTC?** We made a conscious decision not to provide advice regarding LTC, because the health experience, needs and philosophy of one family will differ so dramatically from those of others. Several members of our executive committee, for example, had chosen options differing from my own. But we did provide a wealth of information designed to help with this difficult decision.

**Check Our Website!** This bit of contemporary history reminds me to urge that you too should check the website with some frequency. Because publication deadlines often prevent as timely submission of information as we would like, and the expense of first class postage is so large and continually growing for nearly three thousand members, any of you with online access should intermittently check our website to see if anything pertinent to you and your family has been added. I think you will be surprised with how much useful information is there.

**The CSU-ERFA Listserve.** We have also established a listserv program that enables CSU-ERFA to provide timely electronic announcements far sooner than can be accomplished by The Reporter. At present only about ten percent of our membership have made email addresses available, and I urge you to consider contacting the CSU-ERFA office to add your address. Website and listserv cannot reach you all-but the more the better! And probably some of you who will know of colleagues who do not have access to these new-fangled means of communication and, good citizens that you are, will relay issues of importance to them.

**Endorsement.** You will also read in this issue (p. 1) an endorsement of the executive committee's preferred candidate for the retiree position on the Public Employees Retirement Board.

Don Dewey  
President, CSU-ERFA

# Basic Information About Long-Term Care

## By CSU-ERFA

Under the leadership of Mark Shapiro, CSU-ERFA's webmaster, CSU-ERFA completed a guide to long-term care for CSU retirees. The complete guide is posted at <http://www.csuerfa.org/long-term-care.html>. The guide is intended only to provide general background information about long-term care options. The information is believed to be reasonably accurate, but you are cautioned and encouraged to discuss the purchase of any long-term care insurance policy or other type of long-term care program with a qualified, licensed financial advisor who is aware of your individual situation.

**Introduction.** Decisions regarding the purchase of long-term care insurance can be difficult owing both to the high cost and to the complicated nature of many long-term care policies. In addition, a recent New York Times article [1] has documented the difficulties that some holders of long-term care policies have had obtaining benefits from their insurers.

The need for long-term care insurance depends greatly on individual circumstances. For that reason, CSU-ERFA can't make specific individual recommendations regarding LTC insurance, but we can provide some general information.

There are several risk factors that need to be taken into account when considering the purchase of LTC insurance. Life expectancy is a major consideration. The longer that you live, the greater the likelihood that you will need long-term care. Unfortunately, the premiums for LTC insurance also depend on your age when you purchase the insurance. Gender is also a major factor in the need for long-term care. Women, in general, live longer than men and thus are more likely to need long-term care. Marital status also is an important factor. A married person with adult children is less likely to need formal long-term care than a single person.

A 1991 article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by P. Kemper and C. Murtaugh [2] determined the lifetime chance that a person who currently is 65 years old would need nursing home care:

Total Length of Stay	Men	Women
None	67%	48%
Less than 12 months	19%	21%
1 to 5 years	10%	18%
More than 5 years	4%	13%
Totals	100%	100%

These figures agree closely with the recent experience of the CalPERS long-term care program. Only about 5% of those who received benefits from the CalPERS long-term care program have needed long-term care for more than five years.

The costs of long-term care are high. Currently, nursing home care in California costs approximately \$200 per day. Some people would prefer to remain in their own residence rather than to move into a nursing home. The CalPERS long-term care program and some private LTC insurance policies provide options for in-home care as well as nursing home care. However, the benefits offered for in-home care may differ from those offered for care in a licensed facility. You should read and understand fully the provisions of any LTC policy that you are considering. In particular, most LTC policies have a "deductible period" during which you must cover the expenses of long-term care from your own resources.

**The CalPERS Long-Term Care Program.** CSU-ERFA was instrumental in working with the Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) to establish the CalPERS Long-Term Care Insurance Program. Several features of the program including its flexibility, consumer protection standards, and the California Partnership option were influenced by our work. The Association actively advocates reforms to improve the program, and we provide individual assistance to CSU-ERFA members who encounter problems with the program. (Note, however, that CSU-ERFA does not formally recommend any LTC program or policy. LTC insurance is one of several options that an individual should consider depending on his or her situation.)

All California public employees and annuitants, their spouses, their parents and parents-in-law, and siblings over the

age of 18 are eligible to apply for LTC coverage from the CalPERS Long-Term Care Program. Enrollment in the program is subject to underwriting standards and is not guaranteed. The applicant's medical history may affect acceptance. In contrast to private LTC insurance, the CalPERS program is a not-for-profit operation. Except for administrative costs, all the money collected from premiums is placed in a fund that is used to underwrite benefits. It should be noted that this is a separate fund from the CalPERS pension fund. Premiums may be raised from time-to-time in order to keep the LTC fund solvent.

The CalPERS LTC Program offers a wide variety of coverage choices both in regard to type of coverage and magnitude of daily and total benefits including an option for unlimited duration coverage. The three types of coverage offered in the CalPERS LTC Program include a facilities only plan, a comprehensive plan, and a "partnership" plan. The "partnership" plan coordinates CalPERS LTC benefits with Medi-Cal long-term care benefits while providing a level of asset protection that is considerably greater than normally available when one applies for LTC benefits from Medi-Cal.

The "facilities plan" provides benefits only in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and residential care facilities. The "comprehensive" and "partnership" plans also provide benefits in home and community care settings. To be eligible for benefits under the CalPERS LTC Program an individual must need assistance with two "activities of daily living" or must have a severe cognitive impairment. The "activities of daily living" are related to bathing, dressing, eating, transferring, toileting, and continence. Note that private LTC policies may have different eligibility requirements for benefits.

Satisfaction surveys conducted by CalPERS of LTC Program claimants generally have elicited favorable responses. The following information was provided by a CalPERS LTC Program administrator [3] based on surveys taken since the inception of the program.

(Continued on page 4)

## LTC, from p. 3

--94% of claimants were satisfied or very satisfied with the claims department.  
 --95% reported that the claims department responded promptly or very promptly to their initial call.  
 --92% felt that they were informed or well informed about the claims process.  
 --93% stated that their requests for benefits were evaluated promptly.  
 --95% stated that CalPERS Care Advisory Services met their needs by helping them arrange for care.  
 --88% noted that they received clear communication regarding the status of their deductible (many claimants fail to recall that their policy has a deductible period).  
 --90% said that their benefits had been paid promptly.  
 --97% said that their benefits had been paid accurately.  
 --99% said they received clear written communication about the status of their claim.

**Claims Experience.** Because a person must meet specific criteria to be eligible for benefits under a LTC policy, denial of benefits is relatively common in the LTC insurance industry. In California approximately 25% of the claims for LTC benefits are denied according to data collected by the Department of Insurance. The CalPERS LTC Program denial of benefits rate is significantly lower [3]. From the inception of the CalPERS LTC Program through December 31, 2006 a total of 13,016 requests for benefits were received by the program. Of these, 1,165 (8.9%) were denied on the basis that eligibility requirements were not met at the time of the claim. Another 1,880 claims (14.4%) were closed before a claim decision was made. These claims were closed because of (1) recovery of function, (2) death of the claimant, or (3) a decision by the claimant to close the claim. Individuals whose claims are initially turned down by the CalPERS LTC Program are advised not to hesitate to request benefits at a later date if their medical, functional, or cognitive status declines further. Of the 1,165 claimants who were turned down initially, 526 were granted benefits at a later date.

While the data for private LTC insurers is sketchy, the New York Times article cited in the introduction [1] compared the rate of formal complaints filed with

## James Cleary, 1927-2007

By Don Cameron

James Cleary, who served as President of CSU Northridge from 1969 through 1992, died at his home in Boise, Idaho on April 28, 2007. He had been in failing health in recent years.

When Cleary arrived at what was then San Fernando Valley State College, he had just completed a decade long project as major editor on the seventh revision of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. The changes that were incorporated in the seventh revision of this internationally recognized parliamentary manual were substantial and have significantly influenced deliberative bodies around the world for the past three and a half decades. Jim engaged in lengthy discussions with other parliamentarians, including members of the Robert family, before his views prevailed.

As a university President, Jim Cleary practiced the principles he advanced in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*: protection of the rights of a minority to be heard; emphasis on the merits of an argument instead of the person making the argument; maintaining at all times the goal of reaching consensus but following clearly outlined procedures for determining majority opinion when consensus was not possible. When Jim Cleary arrived at Northridge, the campus had been embroiled in a series of disruptive actions which immediately tested his leadership skills. Rather than take quick action, which many advised, he listened patiently to those who felt ignored or misunderstood, spent many hours discussing options and eventually

gained the trust of the entire campus community. His deliberative and cautious approach had a calming influence, which brought the campus through some difficult times in the 1970s and 80s.

Jim Cleary had a clear understanding of the important role that faculty should play in the governance of a university. He accepted recommendations of faculty committees on personnel and curriculum issues, sometimes to the dismay of other administrators, unless procedural flaws could be demonstrated. In those instances, the matter would be referred back to a different faculty committee, with the understanding that if they conducted a full and fair review, their recommendation would be accepted. The generally harmonious relations between faculty and administration at CSUN over the past four decades can be attributed, in large part, to the leadership skills of Jim Cleary.

Don Gerth, retired President of CSU Sacramento, said the following about Jim and Mary Cleary at Cleary's funeral in Boise on May 16th, "they built a student body that exuded enthusiasm, serious educational purpose, and support for the institution and for the CSU, a student body now numbering over 30,000 individuals. They built a faculty with many members distinguished in their fields, and with high morale and a real commitment to their institution and to the California State University. Jim knew how to work with faculty, a skill not all university presidents understand."

state insurance commissioners by the major companies writing LTC insurance. Of these three companies stood out as having significantly higher than average numbers of complaints relative to the number of policies in force. Conseco Senior Health and its wholly-owned subsidiary Bankers Life and Casualty along with Penn Treaty American all had complaint rates significantly above the average.

*Next Issue - Alternative and Supplemental Options for Long-Term Care (including the footnotes)*

## Library Use

While retirees have use of their own CSU libraries, David McNeil of SJSU recently raised the question of using UC libraries. UC libraries give active CSU faculty access to their collections, but retirees either must pay for a community usage card or - probably easier in this day and age - access the UC catalogs electronically and order materials through Interlibrary Loan services.

# CFA - "United We Won!"

By H. Dieter Renning, CSU-ERFA Liaison to CFA

**New Contract!** "United We Won" is the slogan on the cap worn by many CFA members these days. And to everyone's relief the previous one, "I DON'T WANT TO STRIKE - BUT I WILL!", is now the most recent - and most dramatic - part of the California Faculty Association's history. In short, the CSU faculty has a new contract, which CFA members across the system ratified (by a margin of 97% of those voting) at the beginning of May, and which the CSU Trustees approved shortly thereafter.

It is clear that, in the end, several factors combined to make the CSU Administration relent and agree to a settlement. They included the system-wide strike vote (94% in favor, with 81% of active CFA members voting); the recommendations of the independent factfinder, which supported CFA's position on most of the unresolved issues; and a wave of communications from state legislators and other individuals, urging the Administration to settle the contract.

**Salary.** The key issue, which more than any other dominated the 20+ months of bargaining, was the salary article. It provides pretty much what CFA had proposed in the first place: a 20.7% GSI (General Salary Increase) over the next four years, and in addition SSIs (Service Step Increases) and PPIs (Post-Promotion Increases) for eligible faculty. Furthermore, funds will be set aside for a new Equity Program, to address structural salary inequities.

**FERP Program Continues.** Another important CFA victory: The FERP (Faculty Early Retirement Program), which the Administration (and the Trustees) wanted to scale back, will stay intact; i.e., faculty continue to be able to participate in it for up to five years.

**Grievance Procedure Revamped.** And then there is a major revamping (and, from CFA's perspective, significantly improved) grievance procedure for CSU faculty, which for a long time has been a source of real frustration. These changes will require some major adjustments in the way campuses handle grievance matters. (You find the text and summaries of the new contract at

<http://calfac.org/contract.html>.)

Celebrating the final outcome of this long drawn-out bargaining process was, of course, the high point of the CFA Assembly in April. However, the delegates also spent quite a bit of time critically assessing CFA's bargaining strategy, its publicity accomplishments, and its organizing efforts, in addition to drawing up a list of issues to be addressed in the future, the most prominent among those being workload problems.

**Post-Contract Reactions.** It is unfortunate that, by inflating the potential costs of the new contract, the Administration is now using it to predict budgetary shortfalls for the campuses, hinting that increased spending on faculty salaries may force them to reduce the number of classes offered. CFA vigorously disputes that and maintains that, even if the inflated cost estimates by the Chancellor's Office were correct, the impact of the faculty's and other employees' pay raises would be less than \$40 million a year, which translates into less than 1% of the annual CSU budget of more than \$4 billion. In reaction to the Administration's misleading publicity the CFA sent a letter to the chair of the Statewide Academic Senate, with a statement attached that examines the financial condition of the University. (Text of the letter and accompanying statement are found at <http://calfac.org/budget07-08.html>.)

The conclusion of the bargaining process has had another interesting consequence, that of the Administration's chief negotiator, Sam Strafaci, being removed from his position. Furthermore, the CSU Vice Chancellor for Human Relations, Jackie McClain, has announced that she will leave the Administration to become a faculty member at CSU Chico.

**New CFA Officers.** Returning once more to the CFA Assembly, this was the occasion for the delegates to elect the statewide officers and other members of the Board of Directors for the next two years. Lillian Taiz from CSULA will be

the new CFA President, replacing John Travis from Humboldt; Kim Geron, East Bay, was elected Vice President; Peter Kreysa, Long Beach, replaces Geron as Treasurer; and John Halcón, San Marcos, continues as Secretary. (Earlier in the month Dieter Renning was reelected chair of CFA's Retired Faculty Committee.)

**CalPERS Board Endorsement.** In another matter, not directly related to CFA, the Board of Directors, during its meeting preceding the Assembly, heard a presentation by Henry Jones, one of the three candidates running for the Retired Member position on the CalPERS Board. Even though only retired members of CalPERS vote in this election, the CFA Board voted to endorse Jones.

**CFA's "Leg" Days.** The month of May was a busy time in another respect. May 8 and 9 were this year's legislative lobby days, when faculty and students from all 23 CSU campuses had 95 appointments with legislators and their staff from their respective districts and spoke to them face to face about the financial condition of the CSU, the proposed student fee increase, and pending CFA-sponsored legislation regarding CSU governance, administrative compensation decisions, service credit issues related to reduced pay leaves, and other matters. (Go to [www.calfac.org/legisagenda.html](http://www.calfac.org/legisagenda.html) for details.)

**Staff Changes.** Finally, another important news item: After cheerfully celebrating CFA's bargaining victory with the Assembly delegates, General Manager Bob Muscat announced that he will resign on July 1 and move to the Bay Area, where he accepted a new position with another union. Being a San Francisco native, he feels it is time to move back to where most of his family resides. Fortunately, Susan Meisenhelder, a San Bernardino faculty member and former CFA President, has agreed to serve as Interim General Manager.

**Join CSU-ERFA - go to [csuerfa.org](http://csuerfa.org) for further information**

## Don Moore, 1916-2006

(Reprinted in part from the CSU Los Angeles *Emeritimes*)

Donald A. Moore, emeritus professor of economics and statistics at CSULA and for many years CSU-ERFA's liaison to the Statewide Academic Senate, died at the age of 90 on December 6, 2006. He had suffered from worsening consequences of emphysema for the last few years. Don taught Economics from 1956 to 1982 at CSULA.

Don joined the Cal State L. A. faculty in 1956, following completion of his doctorate at Michigan State University. He was instrumental in the development of the department and its curriculum, particularly in quantitative methods. He was further distinguished for his leadership in the CSLA Academic Senate, the Statewide Academic Senate, and the Association of California State University Professors (ACSUP). Following his retirement in 1982, he became active in the Cal State L.A. Emeriti Association and in the CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (CSU-ERFA).

A decorated veteran of World War II, during which he served as an Artillery Liaison Pilot in the Pacific, Don continued his service in the Active Army Reserve during his graduate study years and early in his faculty career. He retired from the military in 1961 at the rank of Major. He continued flying in general aviation until his crash in 2001 and the loss of his Comanche, after which he needed extensive surgery for his fractures.

Don was born on August 20, 1916, in Vegreville, Alberta, in a family that traced its lineage to Scotch-Irish immigrants to North America in the eighteenth century. His early childhood was spent in a rural community, on a homestead-sized farm. When he was six, his parents had to sell the farm and its implements, after which they moved to the U.S. Both parents, originally American, had become naturalized Canadian citizens, which presented no problem upon their return. But Don's citizenship status was omitted from his parents' reentry, and was not cleared up until after he was drafted for service in the American Army.

After the war, Don and Kathleen went to Providence, Rhode Island, where Don joined the faculty of Brown University as an instructor as well as a doctoral student. Because veterans' enrollments were high due to the G.I. Bill of Rights, he was kept busy teaching and neglected his own progress toward the degree. After four years he gave up, and in 1950 went to Michigan State. There, in addition to teaching, he was able to complete the degree requirements and he received his Ph.D. in 1956. That fall, Don and Kathleen, with the first two of their three children, moved to Southern California and long-needed permanent roots.

Once settled, Don began a commitment to community service that increased as his other activities waned, first upon his retirement from the military reserve, and again after his retirement from the faculty. He joined Angel Flight, an organization of private pilots who flew critically ill patients to medical centers. He also participated in the Young Eagles program, introducing post-war teenagers to aviation as a possible career. On the ground, Don and Kathleen worked with local shelters for the homeless and with programs of food distribution for those in need, serving cities in the Pomona Valley.

They spent a decade in conservation-centered camping, in a program sponsored by the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, flying to various scenic locations in west-coast states. They were drawn to these interests by Roland Ross, late professor of biology at Cal State L.A., a dedicated preservationist.

But the 2001 crash, when Don was 85 and Kathleen 83, became the terminator for such travel. Before that, their personal flights had taken them to areas of North and Central America, and their military-privilege flights had taken them to numerous places in Europe. Don wrote three memoirs, the first of which was a description of the action he experienced in the battles of the Pacific, "Low and Slow" (1999). His second book was "Desomount: A Fifty-Year History of a Family Camping and Conservation Club" (2001). His last, an autobiography, bears the title "Illegal Eagle" (2004), referring to his entangled citizenship but covering his entire life.

## Health Benefit Increases

(Continued from page 1)

and \$3,000 for families, excluding pharmacy. None of these changes, again, affects members of the CalPERS Medicare plans.

The Health Benefits Committee rejected a proposed Emergency Room co-pay increase from \$50 to \$75 on a close vote of 4-3. The Health Benefits committee approved, also by a 4-3 vote, the staff recommended pharmacy co-payment increase, but the full CalPERS Board rejected it.

Blue Shield's proposal to discontinue HMO coverage in four rural counties (El Dorado, Lake, Napa, Plumas) was approved by the Health Benefits Committee and by the CalPERS Board. Rural options will be considered at the June meeting. Members in those counties will still have access to a PPO plan or any HMO plan that might be available.

The Board agreed to add a new HMO and PPO option, known as a "high performance network," in which members who agree to see a subset of network providers will pay slightly less than the current premiums. The subset of providers are the most efficient according to comparative studies of MDs and other providers.

## Lecture in Russia?

CSU Emeriti faculty are invited to lecture in local universities in Perm, Russia, May 14-18, 2008. There will be opportunities to consult and interact with Russian professionals in your field of expertise. Final itinerary will include visits to Moscow and St. Petersburg.

For additional information, contact Dr. Al Baca (albertbaca4221@sbcglobal.net) or Dr. Rita H. Jones, 1170 N. Linda Vista St., Orange, CA 92869.

# Legislative Report

By Bob Bess

At the April 28 Spring State Council meeting, delegates considered nineteen pieces of State legislation and three Federal bills. The Council voted to support three Federal Bills and nine State bills. It acted to oppose one bill. The remainder were placed on our "watch" list. The entire report as presented to the Council is posted on our web site.

For several reasons, we will not see much action on a good deal of this legislation for some time. This is the beginning of a two-year session. There is hesitation to act on money bills given the State's financial circumstances. Negotiations have begun on a variety of plans to extend health insurance coverage. Perhaps most importantly, there has been agreement among legislative leadership that most money bills will be held in committee until the second year of the session.

**Bills being supported include the following: AB 374, the Compassionate Choices Act**, would permit physicians to provide medication to enable an individual to end his or her life. This bill is patterned after the Oregon law, which has been operative for some eight years and has been upheld by the courts. It contains numerous safeguards. Because of strongly held views concerning such matters, the Council voted separately to support this bill, without dissent. It has recently been deferred to next year.

**AB 554** would permit all public agencies in California to contract with CalPERS to invest monies set aside to pre-fund post employment health care benefits. **AB 1296** would require health benefit plans to provide claims and cost data to CalPERS to support its efforts to maintain quality care and manage cost. **SB 235** would extend the vision care program for annuitants to California State University employees. CSEA in particular is working hard on this bill and it is supported by virtually all retiree organizations. Annuitants who enrolled in the plan would pay the full costs. **SB 611** would significantly strengthen penalties associated with financial abuse of elders. It has passed the senate by a wide margin. **SB 580** would extend CalPERS authority to increase health insurance

options for employees and annuitants residing out of state. It passed out of the Senate policy committee without dissent. However, there are sufficient concerns about costs that it is likely to be held in Appropriations for some time.

**Other bills we are supporting are not likely to be considered this year** because of the aforementioned agreement to hold most bills with significant or unknown costs. These include: **SB 25**, which would allow a deduction for funds deposited in health care saving accounts; **SB 259**, which would permit CSU to contribute all or part of the cost of buy-back of service credit for academic employees granted a reduced pay leave; **SB 689**, which would provide for 50/50 cost sharing for vision care; and **SB 755**, which would increase the PERS death benefit to \$5,000.

Two of the three Federal bills we are supporting, **S 206** and **HR 82**, would repeal windfall elimination provisions associated with certain government pension activities and social security. Because there would be significant revenue loss, it is not likely that either will pass in this Congress. However, both bills have many co-sponsors. The third bill, **HR 4**, would permit (not require) the Secretary of HHS to negotiate lower Medicare D drug prices. A major advertising campaign seeks to convince the public that things are doing so well that this would only rock the boat. An earlier version would have required such negotiation. In spite of this softening of language, early passage is doubtful. A companion bill, **S 3**, recently fell five votes short of the 60 required in the U.S. Senate to close off debate for a final vote.

**The Public Employees Post-employment Benefits Commission** began its work in late winter and is to complete its work by January 2008. The charge to the Commission is to determine the amount of post-retirement health and dental benefits for which state and local governments are liable and which remain unfunded, evaluate and compare approaches for addressing unfunded obligations, and propose a plan to address them.

CalPERS and CalSTRS unfunded liabilities are modest in contrast to those of **local** governmental agencies. This reality has led the Commission to focus on the latter. Although effort has been made to revive discussion of substituting a defined contribution approach for the existing defined benefit program for future retirees, Commission behavior to date suggest that this is not something it is likely to address in its report, and the Governor specifically ruled it off the table when the Commission began. Of course, only time will tell whether the Commission will remain on its narrowly defined course.

In addition to visiting the CSU-ERFA web site, readers may also use the Legislative web site ([www.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.legislature.ca.gov)) to determine bill status, read bills and analyses, and readers should contact me for clarification or to inquire about bills not addressed at our site or in this report. E-mail to [rbess@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rbess@sbcglobal.net).

## In Memoriam

BA	Richard W. Graves
CH	Frank E. Burk
EB	Harvey I. Scudder
FR	Emperatriz N. Rabago
HU	Henry S. Trapp
LB	Orval L. Dillingham, Robert L. Younkin
LA	Leonard Adams, Evelyn M. Barclay, C. Maurine Timmerman
NO	Meyer M. Auerbach, Mary E. Bennett, John J. Guarrera, Virginia L. Sherman, Isabelle M. Walker
PO	William M. Harris
SA	Algird A. Grybas, Earl E. Kymala, Kenneth D. Norberg, Barbara A. Schmidt, Willard M. Thompson
SD	R.D. Branstetter, Claire Gulino, Bonnie B. King, Charles C. Yahr
SF	Violet B. Robinson, John E. Tricamo, Edna Picci, David C. Whitney
SJ	Robert T. Bronzan, Marylou Lewandowski, Alexander Liniecki, David K. Newman
SLO	William C. Rife
SO	Donald W. Herberholz

# Statewide Senate Report

By Ron Kroman, Ted Anagnoson, and John Tarjan

The Statewide Senate met on May 9-11, electing its officers for the 2007-08 year. Elected were: Barry Pasternack (FU), chair, John Tarjan (BA), vice-chair, Mark Van Selst (SJ), secretary, and Rochelle Kellner (PO) and Darlene Yee (SF), at-large.

**Resolutions.** Many resolutions were passed at the May plenary. Copies of all ASCSU resolutions can be found at <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen>. Resolutions passed included the following. **Graduate Education Development in the California State University** responds to the paper prepared by the CSU Academic Council (the Provosts). It notes that the foundations of the paper lay in prior work in which ASCSU was integrally involved, recognizes that further study is needed on the issue, and recommends that a joint Provost/ASCSU task force be formed to provide further guidance on graduate education.

**A resolution on Ed.D. programs in educational leadership** offers both general and specific recommendations to support offering of the independent Ed.D., including systemwide colloquia, conferences and organized research units in educational leadership. A further resolution calls for a permanent policy committee to ensure appropriate faculty and partner (CCC and K-12) consultation on Ed.D. programs.

**A resolution on textbook prices** reaffirms the principle that faculty should be free to select appropriate texts for their classes but called for more information on the prices of texts to be available to faculty. **A resolution supporting sustainable development** called for appropriate language in the new CSU strategic plan and for the faculty to encourage learning about sustainability for all students. A resolution, **Providing Equal Access to Programs and Services for Individuals with Disabilities**, supports EO 926, relevant committee recommendations and other actions facilitating the accessibility of electronic and information technology. The Senate also passed a resolution, **In Support of SB 160 (Cedillo): The California Dream Act**, which affirms the support of ASCSU for in-state fees for students who have completed high school in California yet are undocumented.

**CFA Report.** CFA Chair John Travis addressed the Senate for the last time as CFA President. He introduced Lillian Taiz (LA) as the incoming president, indicating that he would continue to play a role in CFA. One of the objectives for CFA in the coming years is to work on the state's perception of the value of the CSU and the importance of investing in it.

**Statewide Senate - CSU Chancellor's office Task Force Reports.** The MBA task force is considering the recommendation of a fee increase for state-supported MBA (and similar) programs. The amounts of increase being considered include \$3,000, \$5,000, and \$7,000. They are also considering guidelines for increasing financial aid to needy students in these programs.

**Chancellor Report.** In his report, Chancellor Charles Reed stated that the state Senate has restored the \$7m for outreach

in our budget. The Assembly has yet to act on this issue. The CSU has significant increases in minority student applications: Black, Latino, Asian, and Native American applicants are all up over 10% for next fall.

At the Board meeting next week the Chancellor will report on CSU emergency preparedness. The CSU has one of the best levels of preparedness in the nation. The Board is especially interested in this issue in light of the tragedy at Virginia Tech. He has also initiated a review of all of our campus student loan programs. We sponsor both direct and private lending programs. The audit of these programs has uncovered only a few minor concerns, addressed with a coded memorandum to the presidents.

In his view, the faculty deserve a fair salary; the contract will help to accomplish this. Student fees are an important part of our revenue stream. A related issue: the \$1.2 billion that has been talked about as a reserve available to the campuses is really an addition of the ending cumulative balances over the past 5 years. The actual amount resides on the campuses (even though it is accounted for centrally) but is pledged for things like construction and the operations of health centers and other auxiliaries.

The CSU is doing an analysis of the fiscal implications of the community college ballot initiative. It would likely result in significant decreases in CSU funding.

**Executive Vice Chancellor Gary Reichard** reported that six of the seven first independent Ed.D. proposals are well along to final approval. The seventh proposal is being perfected. Four more proposals will be reviewed this year. In addition, negotiations are continuing with UC on a joint doctorate in audiology. Preliminary studies are being undertaken on a doctorate in nursing.

**Ralph Wolff, President of WASC**, addressed the group. WASC is trying to encourage faculty participation in the accreditation process and would invite suggestions on how to increase that participation. He views his recent meeting with the Executive Committees of the UC, CSU and CCC Academic Senates as a first step in this process. WASC is very committed to outcomes assessment as a part of the review process. There are ongoing negotiations with the federal government over the amount of centralized control of the accreditation process and the amount of regional and campus discretion. There is great interest at the federal level in accountability measures. WASC is going through its own review process, very similar to the process that campuses go through. Writing and critical thinking are a major focus for WASC in all campus reviews.

**At the March 2007 Statewide Academic Senate meeting**, the senate tested an electronic voting system which it received as a gift from a company called "Turning Point." The system consists as a small hand-held wireless remote for each voting member and the software that allows one to vote for an

(Continued on the next page)



# CSU-ERFA Offices Move

For over a decade, the California State University Northridge campus has provided space for a Retiree Center on campus in recognition of the past and continuing contributions of retired faculty. The Retiree Center houses both the Northridge campus retiree organization, Association of Retired Faculty (ARF) and the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (CSU-ERFA).

As a result of evolving campus space needs and the aftermath of the 1991 Northridge earthquake, the Retiree Center has moved to new quarters several times. Our former offices in the College of Health and Human Development are now needed for additional faculty offices. Academic Resources found a new home for both ARF and CSU-ERFA in Bayramian Hall, located on the opposite side of the campus. We relocated in mid-May and quickly settled into our new space, which while slightly smaller, is better equipped and very suitable for our needs. This is our fifth location and hopefully we will remain here for a long time. How much did this move cost CSU-ERFA? Absolutely nothing! The Northridge Physical Plant Management Dept. facilitated the actual moving of our

furniture and equipment and the Systems and Technology Help Desk experts assisted with transferring and setting up our computers. Both ARF and CSU-ERFA are grateful for the office space CSUN graciously provides.

The move does not affect our contact information. Our telephone number, email, fax and mailing address all remain the same as on the masthead on page 2 of **The Reporter**.

Linda Zimmerman  
CSU-ERFA Office Manager

# New Members

Welcome to the following new members of CSU-ERFA:

- EAST BAY/HAYWARD - Brenda Bailey, Robert H. Good
- FRESNO - Thomas Breen, Robert S. Mikell
- FULLERTON - Carol A. Bednar
- MONTEREY BAY - Lavinia Borner
- POMONA - Elizabeth K. Tracy
- SACRAMENTO - Larry Hannah, Hortense E. Simmons
- SAN JOSE - John Richard Douglas
- STANISLAUS - Melissa Aronson, Laura M. Boyer



Pictured at left are Don Cameron of the CSU-ERFA Executive Committee and Bill Hosek of the CSUN Association of Retired Faculty in the new CSU-ERFA Offices at CSUN.

# Statewide Senate Report, Continued from p. 8

Individual, a nomination, a proposition, etc. A vote can be changed (but only one vote would be counted), or votes can be placed into any predetermined category etc.

The system was used twice during the March meeting: John Tarjan (BA) was nominated and elected as a senator-at-large. John replaced Paul Persons (CH) who tragically died in his Long Beach hotel room while attending the March Senate meeting. The electronic voting system was also used to nominate two Senate members, Kathy Kaiser (CH) and Craig Smith (LB, the incumbent), one of whom will be selected by the governor as the next faculty trustee.

**Reed Report.** In his report to the Senate, Chancellor Reed described the budgetary cycle, which begins with his presentation to the Assembly budget committee on March 6, 2007. The committee has only one holdover member of the committee; six of the seven members were new to the committee and the Assembly. The lack of holdovers makes it difficult to explain situations and problems peculiar to the CSU. The lack of "institutional memory" is due to term limits; the problem is not as severe with the state senate.

Among the resolutions passed were the following: **Concern for the Professional Science Master's (PSM) Program.** These are master's degrees in science where industries want individuals

to have training in more than just the science alone, but additional education in areas such as business, psychology etc. **Advocacy for Substantial Revisions to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind).** This act includes regulations and requirements that are harmful to public education in California. The resolution urges the Chancellor and campus presidents to voice their strongest objections to its punitive provisions. **Extension of Graduate Differential Funding to All Graduate FTES.** This resolution both thanks the legislature for the increased funding for graduate programs and points out areas needing improvement.



## State Council April Meeting

At left, Don Dewey, President of CSU-ERFA, with Dr. George Diehr, Professor of Management Science at CSU San Marcos, chair of the CalPERS Health Benefits Committee and a member of the Cal-PERS Board of Administration.

Below: the State Council met at the LAX Crowne-Plaza Hotel.



CSU-ERFA's State Council met April 28th, preceded by an Executive Committee meeting on April 27th. Major items of business included the election of officers, all repeats except for Dieter Renning as Vice President and Don Cameron as Treasurer, and an extensive discussion by George Diehr of proposed changes to the various CalPERS health plans, action by the Council to support various federal and state bills (see the Legislative Report in this issue), nominations and appointments from the Nominating Committee and the President, and reports from various officers and committees.

### **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY EMERITUS & RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION**

The Retirement Center  
18111 Nordhoff Street  
Northridge, California 91330-8339

Have you moved? If so, please report your new address to the CSU-ERFA office at the above address.

Address Service Requested



California State University  
Emeritus & Retired Faculty Association