



REPORTER

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A quarterly publication of the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association/Spring 2004

By Wilma Krebs, chair, Legislative Committee, and Milt Dobkin, chair, Health Benefits Committee

You may have received a letter from CalPERS if you are enrolled in a Kaiser Basic health plan.

Retirees in other plans may get a letter in the future, requiring them to get Medicare Part B if you are eligible. These letters need to be understood because of the possible effect on your coverage. You may be at risk of losing your CalPERS health plan coverage. This affects retirees who turned 65 on or after Jan. 1, 1988.

(Faculty who retired prior to January 2001 can remain in their Basic plan, according to the CalPERS Web site and reported by Eric Hanauer.) Go to:

<http://www.calpers.ca.gov/index.jsp?bc=/member/health/medicareunderstandmedicare.xml>

You got Medicare Part A (Hospital) at age 65 if you had 40

Alert message for members:

You need to be aware of Medicare rules

quarters or more of Social Security coverage. You were offered Medicare Part B (Medical) on a voluntary basis, with monthly payments deducted from your paycheck in most cases. If you delayed enrollment, there is a penalty of 10 percent a year compounded annually.

If you continued working, but

not as a retiree, you could have taken advantage of a special enrollment period, which is an eight-month period following the month the employer or union group plan coverage ends, or when employment ends. Some got coverage when a spouse turned 65 and got Medicare.

If you missed the special period, then you were required to use the general enrollment period of Jan. 1 to March 31. Those on the FERP program were actually retired, so when they became 65 they were expected to move from a Basic Plan to a Medicare-coordinated plan.

Some have been reluctant to take Medicare Part B if it required a penalty payment. In

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For you — help with problems

By Milt Dobkin, Humboldt Member at large

From time to time CSU-ERFA members need assistance, usually in dealing with CalPERS or health plan programs or campus officials.

Most members seeking help start, appropriately, with calls or e-mails to the CSU-ERFA Northridge office. If Office Manager Linda Zimmerman does not have a solution for the problem, she refers the member to Executive Director Robert Kully. Depending on prior advice, the

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PRIYA MATHUR, CalPERS board member, spoke to the CSU-ERFA State Council at its meeting April 17 in San Francisco. She presented a basic outline of CalPERS, its health care coverage and its investments. She is the organization's first woman member and its youngest. At left is Bob Kully, CSU-ERFA executive director. (Photo by Howard L. Seemann)

Executive Committee**2003-2004****Jerome Beamish** (Stanislaus), president**Lawrence Ianni** (San Francisco), vice president**Judson Grenier** (Dominguez Hills), secretary**Dominic Perello** (San Luis Obispo), treasurer**Robert Maurer** (Chico), past president**Wilma Krebs** (Sacramento), member at large**Milton Dobkin** (Humboldt), member at large**Eleanor Price** (Dominguez Hills), member at large**Iris Shah** (Northridge), member at large**Howard Seemann** (Humboldt), Reporter editor**Robert D. Kully** (Los Angeles), executive director**Committee chairs****Max Norton** (Stanislaus), foundation grant awards**Wilma Krebs** (Sacramento), legislative**Ada Mae Hardeman** (Long Beach), membership**Sam Wiley** (Dominguez Hills), pre- and post-retirement**H. Dieter Renning** (Stanislaus), liaison to CFA**Ronald Kroman** (Long Beach), liaison to CSU Academic Senate**Sidney Albert** (Los Angeles), liaison to California Conference of AAUP**Howard L. Seemann** (Humboldt), publications**Kurt Bohnsack** (San Diego), archivist**Administrative staff****Linda Zimmerman**, office manager

The Retiree Center

18111 Nordhoff St.

Northridge, Calif. 91330-8339

818/718-7996; 818/718-7680 (fax)

E-mail: csuerfa@csun.edu

Howard Seemann (Humboldt)

Reporter editor

2123 H St.

Eureka, Calif. 95501-3703

707/445-0286

E-mail: hls2@northcoast.com

From the president ...

Looking at the year's accomplishments**By Jerome Beamish**
CSU-ERFA president

It has been a good year!

We have been able to accomplish many things:

- The establishment of a CSU-ERFA Foundation which gives us control over our own funds for the purpose of sponsoring research projects in several areas of importance to retirees, as well as to fund other projects which may be approved by the CSU-ERFA Charitable Foundation Board.

**Beamish**

- We have established a Standing Committee on Health Benefits (extremely important in these times) under the leadership of Milt Dobkin with assistance and counsel of our Legislative chair, Wilma Krebs.

- The Membership Committee was reorganized under the chairmanship of Ida May Hardeman, and it already has a plan for recruiting new members with the assistance of our CSU-ERFA affiliates.

- The Committee on Retirement Concerns was also reactivated under the leadership of Sam Wiley.

All this is good news. The only bad news was the preliminary report concerning the governor's budget proposals for higher education, which, if implemented, would be disastrous. To assist in combating these, we have joined "The Coalition to Save the CSU" along with the Chancellor's Office and the California Fac-

ulty Association.

We hope our efforts will be effective in persuading the governor to at least modify some of his proposals, so that the CSU may continue to serve the students of California in the most effective manner.

I regret that it is necessary for me to step down from the presidency after only one year. I would have very much liked to continue. However, family health considerations have made this impossible.

We have a great team of officers for 2004-2005 who will, I know, provide outstanding leadership and continue our forward-looking programs. I am looking forward to continuing, to the extent that I am able, as a member of the Executive Committee and the State Council in my capacity as immediate past president.

Thanks to 'Shorty'

The State Council, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, conferred an Honorary Life Membership on Emmett Long at its April 17 meeting.

This was in recognition and gratitude for his lengthy and distinguished service to CSU-ERFA as vice president, president, Executive Committee member and interim executive director of CSU-ERFA during Bob Kully's illness. In addition, he has accepted the office of vice president for 2004-2005.

Our deepest appreciation to him for his continuing leadership. ✓

Education has major role in changing U.S. job scene

By Larry Ianni, San Francisco
CSU-ERFA vice president

Many economists and newspaper pundits have asserted that the movement of a considerable number of jobs formerly done in this country overseas to India, China and other countries is not a bad thing in the long run. In fact some have argued that it is actually a good thing because these jobs will in time be replaced with higher paying ones as innovation leads to new tasks to be performed.



Ianni

History shows that innovation has indeed been the key factor in the evolution of America into one of the most dynamic and affluent nations in the history of the world. Why then be concerned if many jobs of a routine and repetitive nature are sent overseas?

All that is required is to train people to do the new work, which will be created by products and services about to arrive from just over the horizon. Just as the buggy makers became car body makers and typewriter makers became computer makers, new careers await the next generation as innovation creates new needs.

There was an old saying: Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door. That is a homely way of stating that innovation is the key to having a vital — perhaps the pre-eminent — economy and the high standard of living that it makes possible.

Of course, there is an implied and necessary condition to this concept of innovation being key

to economic well being.

The necessary factor is that innovation will happen where and when you want it. For America to have a vital economy and a high standard of living, substantive innovation must occur in America at a continuous rate. Who can guarantee that? Certainly not the business school graduates who are willing to run successful companies at indecently high pay or make fortunes selling stock in thriving companies to the public.

Who can guarantee the arrival of another Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Jonas Salk or Steve Wozniak or even the man who sold Bill Gates the operating system on which he launched his company for the modest sum of \$50,000? The obvious answer is that no one can guarantee that America will always be the center of innovation. One prominent American CEO who is comfortable to send jobs overseas has said that there is no job that is a God-given right of Americans. Perhaps, but that is equally true of the imagination to innovate as well.

For those of us who have spent lifetime careers in education, it is clear that to have a steady stream of innovation one needs potential innovators. A comprehensive and effective educational system is the best strategy for assuring a vital number of innovators. The emphasis in America at the moment is not on nurturing innovators. The primary interest is not on building better mousetraps but on managing the Better Mousetrap Co. at a profit or in selling people shares in the It Might Be the Better Mousetrap Co.

Corporate managers don't innovate; they thrive on the imagination of innovators.

Career educators can be sure of one thing: If the innovators don't arrive as needed, business executives and economists will say that it is a failure of the educational system. They certainly won't say it is because of the declining amount of money corporations put into research and development or because of declining employee morale and commitment because workers fear their jobs will go overseas.

No, they will point to the statistics that show that the rich are getting richer on the products imported into this country by workers who make a fraction of American wages in state-of-the-art factories built with American investment abroad.

As for blaming the educational system, there is no innovation in that either. That under-supported whipping boy has been the scapegoat again and again.✓

In Memoriam

CHICO — Robert F. Johnson

FULLERTON — Jack Russell

HUMBOLDT — James D.

Turner, John W. DeWitt

LOS ANGELES — John B. Campbell

LONG BEACH — H. E. Ahrens, Virginia G. Warren

NORTHRIDGE — Molly C. Gorelick, Lowell J. Noonan

POMONA — Francis H. Dean

SAN BERNARDINO — Donald B. Lindsey

SAN DIEGO — George Duggar, Marie N. Haddad

SAN JOSE — Lawrence B. Lee Lawrence, Curtis R. Stafford✓

Fulbright deadline

Applications for the Fulbright Scholar Program to teach or do research in 14 countries in 45 disciplines for the 2005-06 academic year are being accepted until Aug. 1, 2004.

"With years of experience in lecturing and conducting research, emeritus faculty have much to offer, said Patti McGill Peterson, executive director, Council for International Exchange of Scholars.

Further information can be obtained by calling CIES at 202/686-7877 or at its Web site, www.cies.org. You also can write to CIES at 3007 Tilden St., Suite 5L, Washington, D.C. 20008-3009. The e-mail address is appraequest@cies.iie.org.

Peterson also said that emeritus faculty make "highly successful Fulbrighters. Not only are they accomplished teachers and scholars, they also are often ready for new challenges and have the flexibility to pursue them."

Traditionally awards are available from two months to an academic year or longer. Foreign language skills are needed in some countries, but most assignments are in English. About 80 percent of the awards are for lecturing.

When registering at the Web site, use the code MAA45Z24.✓

AROHE to meet in October

The Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (CSU-ERFA is a member) Conference will be held Oct. 8-10 at Loews Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel, Nashville, Tenn.

Speakers will include John P. Keating, chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, subject "Beyond Golden Pond: The Value of Retirement Organizations"; Eugene Rice, scholar in residence, director of the Forum on Faculty Roles and Rewards, American Association of Higher Education, subject "Senior Scholars"; and John R. Siegenthaler, founder, the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University, founding editorial director of USA Today and the former editor and publisher of The Tennessean in Nashville, subject to be determined.

Additional information on the conference and more about AROHE can be obtained by going to

the AROHE web site at www.AROHE.org. — **By Norma Summersgill, San Diego,** *treasurer of AROHE*✓

Legal advice available

Members who need a place to go for legal advice may check out the state bar Home Page at

<http://www.foundationstatebarcal.org>

If you scroll down, you will find the heading, "Recent Publications" on the right. Under this heading, you will find a new publication, "Seniors & the Law."

David Elliott, San Jose, a member of the CSU-ERFA State Council, found it to be quite good. It was developed by the Foundation of the State Bar of California, so it should be accurate in what it claims. Multiple copies can be secured by checking a link in the same section of the Web site.✓

Albert marks No. 90

Sidney Albert, the founder of CSU-ERFA and Los Angeles emeritus, celebrated his 90th birthday April 11.

Norman Fruman, Los Angeles English emeritus, in a letter praised Albert for his contributions to the L.A. campus and to CSU emeritus faculty.

"Faculty members yet unborn who will retire from the CSU system will owe much to a man whose energy, foresight, determination and organizational capacity has created an emeriti organization that is the envy of the nation. ...

"Sidney is one of those rare academics whose scholarly activities embrace two separate disciplines {philosophy and theater}," Fruman wrote.

"To have reached the age of 90 is in itself an achievement. But to have arrived at one's 10th decade lucid, intellectually active and still a formidable presence, well, dear Sidney, having turned 80 myself last year, I am lifting a glass of champagne to you and wishing to have you present to make a speech — keep it short — at my own 90th birthday party."✓

\$1,750 in grants awarded

The CSU-ERFA Grant Awards Committee has awarded \$1,750 in grants for the year 2004.

Milton Loventhal, music, San Jose, was given

From here ...

Briefs

... and there

A hard pill to swallow: why drug prices are so high

(The following is reprinted with permission of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. It was published in the spring 2004 edition of *M*, a publication for UM alumni, friends, faculty and staff.)

By Deane Morrison

The last thing Marie, a University employee, thinks about when she reaches for her asthma medication is its cost. Thanks to her Health Partners coverage, she pays only \$20 for a three-month supply of Advair. If Marie paid cash at the Nicollet Mall Walgreen's in Minneapolis, she would pay \$151.59 for a one-month supply. If she were buying online from Canada, the price would be about \$99 a month, and if a generic of the drug were on the market, the price would probably be slightly lower than the Canadian price.

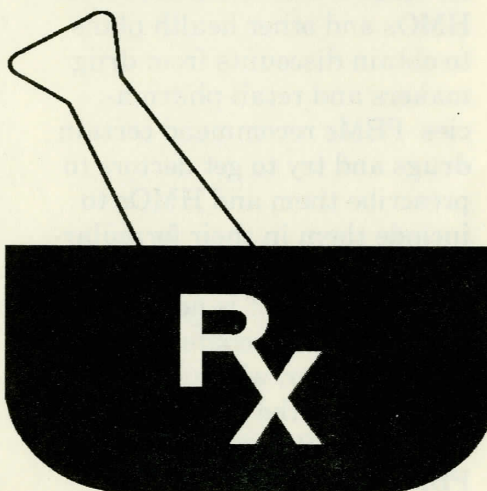
Marie is getting a good deal with her HMO coverage, but her situation illustrates one reason why drug prices, especially for brand names, are sky high and rising in the United States. According to a couple of University experts, the steep price of drugs depends on many factors — like the shielding of insured consumers from the true prices of drugs, patent laws and the byzantine structure of an industry whose practices are all but impossible to track.

Consumer price insulation

One simple factor in high costs is that the doctor who chooses a drug doesn't pay for it and may have no idea of its price; therefore, he or she may pick a high-priced brand name over a generic version of the drug without a second thought. Doctors get much of their information about drugs from the manufacturers, who send "detail persons" to doctors' offices — complete with free samples — to extol the virtues of the latest brand-name drugs. Ads aimed at consumers also tout brand names, increasing the demand for more expensive drugs.

If an HMO or other health plan is paying, that's good for the consumer but not for prices. "Suppose each refill costs you a flat \$10 to \$20 co-pay, whether it's a \$50 brand-name drug or a \$30 generic," says Roger Feldman, a Univer-

sity professor of health services research and policy. "Demand for the drug would be insensitive to price." Such arrangements help insulate consumers like Marie from the true cost of their medications, so they have no incentive to shop around. But an insurance policy that requires the consumer to pay a certain percentage of all costs would introduce some price sensitivity, and encourage both consumer and insurer to seek better bargains.



Oh, Canada

U.S. prices got so high in the first place partly because, in the 1970s and 1980s, companies began pricing according to a country's median income, says Stephen Schondelmeyer, head of the University's PRIME Institute, which monitors the pharmaceutical industry. Drug prices in Canada run about 50 to 60 percent of the U.S. figure; in Europe it's about 40 to 50 percent. But the United States has huge income disparities;

affluent people tend to have HMO or other coverage, and those who don't have any coverage tend to be the poor or elderly.

"Many people paying cash are way below median U.S. income, but prices were set according to the median," says Schondelmeyer. "That's why seniors complain — many have only Medicare, which doesn't cover most drugs."

U.S. law allows only the company that makes a drug to reimport it from Canada into the United States, says Schondelmeyer. The law is routinely ignored by U.S. consumers who order drugs from Canada or go there to buy them, and several states have challenged the law. But drug companies have threatened to limit sales to Canada if the law were repealed or if the flow of drugs southward over the border gets out of hand.

"[If they did that], they would be acting like a cartel, which is illegal in the United States," says Schondelmeyer.

Both Schondelmeyer and Feldman scoff at companies' claims that anti-reimportation laws serve to ensure the safety of drugs from Canada.

"Anti-reimportation laws have little to do with

Please turn to page 6.

More about ...**High drug prices****Continued from page 5.**

safety and everything to do with profit," says Feldman. In effect, says Schondelmeyer, by paying high prices, Americans are subsidizing lower prices in Canada and Europe.

Patents

Laws governing the patenting of drugs also play a role in how they're priced. Drug patents give companies the exclusive right to manufacture a drug for 20 years; without patents, companies would be unable to protect their products long enough to recoup the huge costs of drug development, and new drug research would suffer. But loopholes like the one covering patent extension allow manufacturers to keep their patents — and the relatively high prices — longer, while keeping lower-priced generic equivalents off the market.

Patent extension law gives a patent holder an automatic 30-month extension on the patent whenever a second party challenges the patent. A court decision could cut the 30-month extension, but companies know how to keep cases in court longer than 30 months, Schondelmeyer says. Drug companies can also ask Congress to extend patents, a company can patent something besides the actual drug chemical — such as a new process to make the drug, a new dosage for a new use, as happened with Prozac.

"Prozac is off patent, but Eli Lilly found it could be used for PMS," says Schondelmeyer. The company now has a new patent on the same chemical it uses in

Prozac, but it's called Serafem for PMS, he says. Thus, rival companies can't market the off-patent Prozac chemical as a drug for PMS.

The PBM labyrinth

During the last two decades — the PBM, or pharmacy benefit management company — has arisen to manage drug benefits for HMOs. PBMs contract with HMOs and other health plans to obtain discounts from drug makers and retail pharmacies. PBMs recommend certain drugs and try to get doctors to prescribe them and HMOs to include them in their formularies (lists of approved drugs). When a discount is negotiated, it appears as a rebate from the manufacturer, which the PBM passes on to the HMO.

But, says Schondelmeyer, PBMs don't disclose to their HMO employers the total amount of the manufacturer's rebate or other payments, which might include administration fees, data acquisition fees or other types of compensation for the PBMs. Also, PBMs get more rebate dollars from higher-priced drugs than from lower-priced drugs.

"PBMs are paid by HMOs to get low prices, but they benefit by preferring higher-priced drugs in their recommendations to HMOs," says Schondelmeyer. "It's a huge conflict of interest. I think transparency is needed. If PBMs had to disclose their transactions, maybe somebody could referee them."

Adding to the complexity and the conflicts of interest is the fact that some of the biggest PBMs have become affiliated with, or even owned outright, by pharmaceutical companies.

What to do?

In Feldman's view, closing loopholes in patent laws and shortening the 20-year life of patents would be a good first step toward controlling prices. Schondelmeyer thinks the industry could benefit, at least in the long run, if some of the veils hiding its structure were swept away.

"Companies argue that the United States is the only 'free market' for drugs because other countries, for example, in Western Europe, control prices," says Schondelmeyer. "But that should lead to competition and lower prices. Instead, the structure of the industry, hidden prices and conflicts of interest prevent those from happening." Neither Feldman nor Schondelmeyer believes that the new Medicare prescription coverage will lead to lower drug prices. For one thing, the legislation stripped the federal government of any right to negotiate lower prices.

What Schondelmeyer calls the drug industry's "broken market" — a market that doesn't have to play by the traditional rules of economics — may eventually work against it. The inscrutable nature of drug pricing makes the industry vulnerable to public anger, and the longer that resentment simmers, the larger the potential for a political showdown. Were that to occur, Congress may act in haste, and price controls — or other remedies for outraged consumers — may be used to treat the symptoms and little effort will go into investigating the underlying causes of the problem. For now, the best prescription may be to open up the closed and secretive world of the drug industry to the light of day. ✓

More about ...

Briefs from here, there
Continued from page 4.

\$750 for production and recording of original musical selections depicting "A Tapestry of Women's Lives" in two parts — a CD album of 28 songs and a musical review of the same title.

Manfred Wolf, English/Humanities, San Francisco, was given \$1,000 for a compilation of articles from U.S. and European newspapers. It advances the thesis that "there is a need for differing opinions."✓

Jackson publishes

Hal Jackson, Humboldt geography, joined writer Rachel Snyder for an article on America's first highway, the Camino Real, published in the May American Heritage.

She said Jackson was "passionate about ... dents and grooves in an old trail."

Jackson shot several photographs for the article.

He is coauthor of a book on "Following the Sante Fe Trail." He is president of the Sante Fe Trail Association.✓

Welcome new members

We welcome the following new members of CSU-ERFA:

DOMINGUEZ HILLS —

Judith J. Chodil, Earl E. Watson

FRESNO — Carol D. Evans

HUMBOLDT — Jerrald

David Krause

LONG BEACH — Teresa C. Sun

NORTHRIDGE — Nancy J. Owens

SAN DIEGO — Thomas C. Meador, Dorothy L. Vails-Weber, Pershing Vartanian, Maria-Barbara Watson

Through April 20, 2004✓

Master Plan is passé; Fiscal crisis is focus of State Academic Senate

By Ron Kroman, Long Beach
Liaison to CSU Academic Senate

The Academic Senate recognized the demise of the Master Plan at its March meeting.

A resolution on the premise was unanimously accepted after debate. Discussed was the current fiscal crisis including similar problems at the UC and community colleges.

The original Master Plan provided for access and affordability of quality higher education in the state. First readings were given to resolutions attempting to support that premise by reducing the impact on students.

One resolution is an attempt to reduce the number of units taken in excess of those required for the major. Another outlined principles for "reaching consensus on regional and statewide program alignments."

In other action, the Senate:

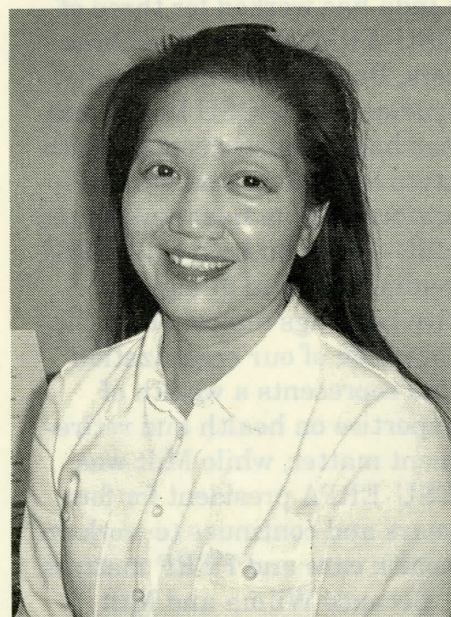
- adopted a resolution in support of a sustainability policy for the system. This involves modifications of building design and construction as well as increased use of renewable energy sources.

- passed a resolution proposing the elimination of a sunset clause in the establishment of Chico's Center of Excellence in the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, Human Rights and Tolerance.

David Spence, executive vice chancellor, told the Senate that the UC seemed willing to allow the CSU to grant doctorates (not joint doctorates) in some areas.

The next Senate meeting will be in May in Long Beach.✓

We welcome new aide to CSU-ERFA



Catherine Liu

The CSU-ERFA office at Northridge has hired a new administrative assistant.

Can-Ling Liu, who prefers to be called Catherine, was born in China and has been in this country for 14 years. The accounting major is a bright and pleasant young woman who is learning quickly, reports Office Manager Linda Zimmerman.

She is starting to recognize names, but if you call the office to leave a message, please be patient and spell out names and information, if necessary. Catherine is dedicated, committed and industrious.

Executive Director Bob Kully and Linda are pleased to have her as a colleague.✓

More about

Aid from CSU-ERFA Continued from page 1.

member may be referred to Wilma Krebs or Milt Dobkin, with other Executive Committee members sometime asked to assist.

These CSU-ERFA personnel are a "repository" of experience for our members. Linda has worked for three of CSU-ERFA's Executive Directors, Bob was the first faculty trustee on the CSU Board and has had extensive contact with state legislators and administrators, Wilma has represented CSU-ERFA on both CalPERS committees and at legislative hearings almost since the inception of our organization and represents a wealth of expertise on health and retirement matter, while Milt was CSU-ERFA president for four years and continues to work on health care and FERP matters.

Because Wilma and Milt frequently attend CalPERS consultative groups, they are in contact with officials of that organization as well as agencies (e.g., representatives of insurance carriers) and know whom to talk to about CSU-ERFA member problems.

Some recent examples:

• Rejection of a PERS-Choice claim

The spouse of a CSU-ERFA member was diagnosed with breast cancer. The physician (a recognized expert diagnostician and surgeon in the disease) referred the patient to Stanford's medical center for a bilateral MRI to discover how far the cancer had spread. Blue Cross, which administers claims for PERSChoice, refused

coverage for the MRI, categorizing it as experimental.

After conversations between CSU-ERFA's advocate and the Blue Cross representative to CalPERS, an appeal was considered, but the claim was again denied.

After more vigorous advocacy, Blue Cross, stating that the claim and diagnosis had been "re-reviewed," reversed its position and approved the claim.

While success is not guaranteed, CSU-ERFA will work to so assist its members.

• Erroneous interpretation of the FERP regulations

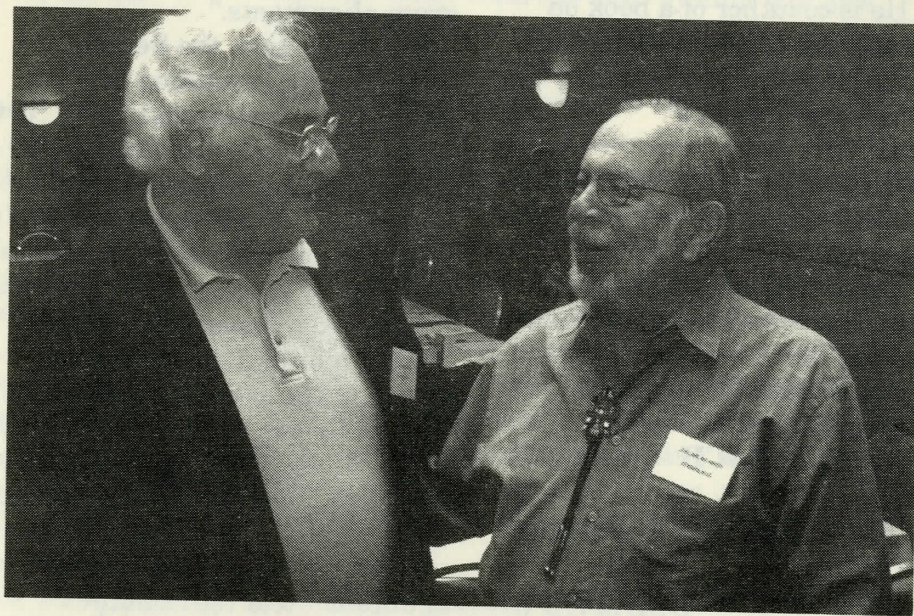
At San Diego State University a campus administrator told a FERP member of CSU-ERFA that the law or regulations prohibited FERPs from any further employment by the CSU after completion of FERP eligibility and service.

We do not know if the campus administrator was thinking of the original prohibition affecting 1992 retirees, which was

acknowledged as removed after much work by CSU-ERFA, but the administrator was wrong.

The California Government Code contains the provisions affecting CSU faculty employment after retirement (see Section 21229 and others accompanying) permits CalPERS retirees to accept appointment when needed by the CSU or a community college without loss of retirement provided that paid service does not exceed 960 hours per fiscal year. (Any work during a day is charged as "eight hours," so 24 weeks/fiscal year becomes the maximum.)

This represents a change in prior provisions, which did not mention community college employment in which teaching faculty are usually covered by STRS rather than PERS (STRS=State Teachers Retirement System), but there are no restrictions on employment where the firm or agency has not contracted with PERS for retirement benefits.✓



CHANGING OF THE GUARD — Larry Ianni, San Francisco, left, will move from CSU-ERFA vice president to president when Jerome Beamish, Stanislaus, steps down July 1. Here they discuss issues at the April 27 council meeting in San Francisco.

More about

Medicare cautions

Continued from page 1.

many cases this cost could be outweighed by the risk of a serious illness, with huge hospital co-payments or deductibles (much more if you are in PERSCare or PERSChoice than if in Kaiser).

We want you to be aware of the risk of possibly losing all CalPERS health plan coverage if you ignore the CalPERS letter requiring you to get Part B if you are eligible, and move to a Medicare-coordinated plan.

You may appeal if you relied on bad information that you got from an official source such as a Social Security office. Under some circumstances CalPERS may be able to pick up a Part B penalty where this is economically justified. The member is expected to find the range of services in the Medicare-coordinated plan just about the same or better than in the Basic plan, for a given health plan provider.

Medicare pays for a sizable chunk of the bill, helping CalPERS and its members to survive spiraling health costs.

If you need information, or need to file an appeal to CalPERS, contact either Milt Dobkin (milton@humboldt1.com) or Wilma Krebs (wilma@winfirst.com). ✓

Send your news

Your post-retirement activities are of interest to our readers.

Please send details on what you are doing to keep busy. Such items may include publications, honors and recognitions, and lectures.

Please send items to:
2123 H St., Eureka, Calif.
95501, or
hls2@northcoast.com ✓

More about

CSU faces budget crisis

Continued from page 10.

Save the CSU."

This effort has brought over 1,000 organizations and individuals in the public and private sectors together, including many state legislators and other political decision-makers, and it continues to grow.

Its mission: to educate the public, in the broadest sense of the word, about the central place of the CSU in the state's educational system and, in particular, about its contribution to California's economic wellbeing.

At the CFA Assembly Susan Meisenhelder, past president of CFA and chair of its Political Action/Legislative Committee, and Lillian Taiz, CFA vice president, discussed in detail the coalition's accomplishments and its plans for the spring.

On April 26 CFA organized a rally outside the governor's office in downtown Los Angeles.

More than 3,000 students, faculty and staff from seven CSU campuses came together to urge "No More Cuts" to the CSU budget.

That same day a similar demonstration took place in front of the governor's San Diego office.

About 1,000 students and faculty from two CSU campuses, as well as from the University of California and several community colleges, participated.

In addition campus chapters of CFA and student groups have organized numerous local demonstrations and town hall meetings.

Meanwhile CFA has also been active in the state Legislature. In March CFA Secretary Patri-

cia Hill testified before the Senate Budget Subcommittee, and CFA Affirmative Action Chair Cecil Canton testified during a special hearing of the Senate Education Committee.

They pointed out the implications of budget cuts for student outreach and student success programs in public higher education.

Several other CFA leaders are scheduled to address legislative bodies as the state budget is being finalized.

While a substantial amount of time at the CFA Assembly was devoted to reports and discussions of budget-related activities, the delegates also adopted a number of resolutions, dealing, among other things, with the protection of ethnic and women's studies programs and with actions in the event of layoffs.

They also elected seven CFA representatives and four alternates to the CTA State Council and recognized several chapter representatives for their contributions with CFA's "We Honor Ours" award.

This year's F. Ben Mansell Award went to Isaac Cohen from San Jose State for his work as a grievance/representation advocate.

Finally, a cause for special pride was the announcement to the Assembly that, at its annual meeting in July the National Education Association will honor one of CFA's former presidents, Ann Shadwick from San Francisco State.

She will be given the Mary Hatwood Futrell Award for her work toward achieving professional and financial parity for academic librarians.

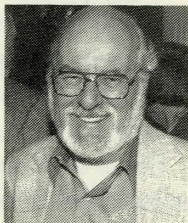
Note: Go to www.calfac.org for further information. ✓

Financial outlook for CSU has never looked so dismal

By H. Dieter Renning

Liaison to CFA

"Save the CSU: No More Cuts" was the slogan under which the California Faculty Association held its 60th Delegate Assembly on April 24-25 at the Holiday Inn in Sacramento.



Renning

The fiscal outlook for the university has never looked so dismal, and the agenda and discussions at the Assembly were an inevitable reflection of this crisis.

As was previously reported, the reopener negotiations between CFA and the CSU

ended last January with an agreement that included an extension of the full contract by one year, due to budget uncertainties. In the meantime, those uncertainties have become realities, hitting home on the campuses and at the Chancellor's Office.

Depending on the outcome of the final budgeting process in Sacramento, the combined cuts in the CSU budget for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 academic years may add up to half a billion dollars.

Nobody doubts that those cuts will severely diminish the university's ability to fulfill its mission. While the specific reactions to the fiscal realities will

vary from campus to campus, the overall impact is recognized system-wide: reduced student admissions, reduced class offerings, possible cancellation of whole programs – and, of course, cuts in staffing at all levels, including instruction.

In short, it appears that the state's much revered Master Plan for Higher Education has been put in cold storage.

The overriding concern of CFA is to use its influence in the public arena to protect academic programs and faculty positions in the CSU. Its involvement has taken several forms, the most important being CFA's initiation of the statewide "Coalition to

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