

REPORTER

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

CSU-ERFA Celebrates Fifteenth Anniversary

*Founding
President Sidney
Albert Given
Standing Ovation
at the 15th
Anniversary
Celebration*

The dawn of a new century and a new millennium is a propitious time to celebrate the birth, growth, and signal accomplishments of the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association during the waning decade and a half of the twentieth century. In all likelihood the first systemwide retired faculty organization in the nation—and by far the largest—it has been effecting a quiet revolution in the academic life of our University, opening avenues for continuation of the professorial careers of its members, and becoming a rich resource of service to the institution they helped create and develop. In doing so it has been—along with other West Coast universities—in the vanguard of an historic emeriti movement.

SO OPENS "THE PROVENANCE OF CSU-ERFA," presented by Prof. **Sidney Albert**, the association's founding president, to those assembled for the 15th anniversary celebration of the organization. Over fifty members and guests gathered in Los Angeles April 29, 2000, for the celebration chaired by President **Robert Maurer**.

The event was preceded by the semi-annual State Council meeting, during which the CSU-ERFA officers for 2000-01 were elected. See President Maurer's report elsewhere in this issue for a full report of the meeting.

Following the luncheon, President Maurer opened the celebration with greetings and remarks. He then introduced Albert, who received a standing ovation in recognition of his devotion to the organization. Also introduced were the past presidents: **Jack Byrom**, **Milton Dobkin**, and **Emmett Long** (in absentia). Maurer then introduced the honorary members of the State Council: **Sidney Albert**, **Jack Byrom**, **Edwin Bartenstein**, **Milton Dobkin**, and **Leonard Mathy**, and each was greeted warmly.

Executive Director **Robert Kully** then took the rostrum to read a formal commendation from Governor Gray Davis that praised Albert and the organization for its 15 years of attention to retiree concerns.

David Spence, executive vice chancellor of CSU, the first of the guest speakers, then of-



Sidney Albert

fered brief remarks to the assembly. He stressed the importance to him of involving the emeriti faculty in the life of the university, and called for representatives of CSU-ERFA and the Academic Senate getting together to investigate what the retired faculty can do to help the university. He emphasized the need to meet the pressures

of future enrollment growth and indicated an objective of making the route to the baccalaureate "more direct," citing the six-plus years, on average, of attendance before graduation.

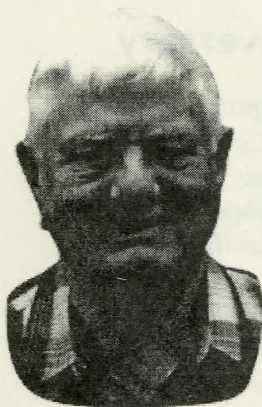
Spence also reiterated the CSU's commitment, from his point of view, to shared governance: 1) to involve faculty early in setting agendas; 2) personal interaction between the administration and the faculty; and 3) reaching understanding on points of difference.

Susan Meisenhelder, California Faculty Association president, next addressed the group and made a plea for CSU-ERFA to continue to be involved in the project "Future of the Univer-

(Continued on page 2)

The President's Report:

On April 29, 2000, as announced in the last *Reporter*, we held our joint Spring Council Meeting and 15th Anniversary Celebration. I will give you the highlights of the State Council meeting; the afternoon celebration of our 15th Anniversary is covered on page 1.



Because the Council meeting was necessarily shortened to accommodate the Celebration in the afternoon, we got to new business right away. These necessary items were taken up first so we wouldn't run up against the time-certain adjournment with actions still needing to be taken. The Council adopted the 2000-2001 budget submitted by Sol Buchalter (Nor), treasurer. June Pollak (Ful) reported for the

nominating committee and conducted elections for officers and at-large members of the Council. The Council confirmed the appointments of at-large Executive Committee members, liaisons and standing committee

chairs. A complete list of the new officers, at-large members, liaisons and committee chairs is listed on p. 8. We also passed a resolution submitted by Milt Dobkin (Hum) that directed CalPERS to consider investing in independent, assisted living, and skilled nursing care facilities for PERS annuitants at a cost that could be afforded by them. That left us time to receive written committee reports and hear a presentation by Wilma Krebs (Sac), legislative committee chair, of new bills that would affect our retirement and health care. Wilma's usual comprehensive report appears on page 4.

This past year has had its share of problems, but your Council and Executive Committee have done a good job in keeping our Association on course. Whatever I have achieved this past year is mostly due to the dependable leadership the association has attracted to its committees, the State Council and the Executive Committee, and I am exceedingly proud that the Council has reelected me for another term in office. If nothing else, you will have to put up with my *Reporter* articles (my wife says, "Are you writing another sermon?") for the next year!

Robert Maurer

rmaurer@mail.csuchico.edu

15th Anniversary (Continued from page 1)

sity." She referred to a series of conferences to discuss trends in the CSU and to raise public awareness of national trends in higher education, referring specifically to the ero-

sion of full-time faculty and the increased use of part-timers, with the associated affect of quality of these phenomena. Further, she seeks realistic assessment of costs and the effects of students on the increasing emphases on technology in education ("Is all change progress?"). Also, Meisenhelder talked about the serious problem of the shortage of affordable housing for younger faculty, especially in the metropolitan areas of the state.

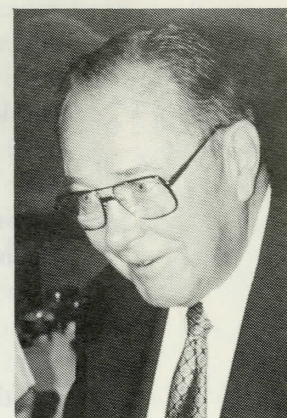


Susan Meisenhelder

The retirees' representative to the CalPERS Board of Administration, **Robert Carlson**, spoke last and was profuse in his praise for **Wilma Krebs** and her work as chair of

CSU-ERFA's legislative committee. He noted her major influence in the shaping of the CalPERS Long-Term Care program. He explained his opposition to three proposals before the board: doubling of the co-payment in some health care plans, merging CalPERS with the State Teachers Retirement System, and establishing an investment advisory board. He urged the audience to keep inviting board members to meet with CSU-ERFA to further communication between our organizations.

Following the speakers, as President Maurer prepared to adjourn the meeting, Prof. Albert requested the floor to offer a most gracious statement lauding President Maurer, Executive Director Kully, and the staff for arranging and presenting a fitting event to celebrate CSU-ERFA's 15 years as a viable association.



Robert Carlson

GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS

Commendation

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

April 29, 2000

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all who are gathered to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association.

For 15 years, CSU-ERFA has vigorously promoted the best interests of CSU retired faculty and staff. On behalf of the people of the Great State of California, I commend CSU-ERFA for its steadfast commitment to protecting CSU retirees' benefits, rights, and privileges. The Association's dedication to our elder citizens is an inspiration to us all.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable anniversary celebration.

s/ Gray Davis
Governor Gray Davis

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PERS Health Benefit News

Health plan costs are rising (around 7 percent in the PPO plans (PERSCare and PERSChoice), and double-digit, on average, in the managed care plans. The strongest force is the rapid rise in prescription medicine prices, which are 26 percent of basic plan costs and 52 percent of Medicare plan costs. A small increase will follow the PERS adoption of AB 88 (mental health parity for all plans), even though the law is not binding on the PPO self-funded plans. All agreed that parity is long overdue.

Recommended were co-payment increases for drugs and a \$10 co-payment for an office visit. The PPO plans currently have co-payments of \$5 for generic, \$10 brand name, and \$5 for mail order prescriptions. The brand name co-payment would go to \$15 and the generic to \$10, with the office visit to \$10. The mail order would stay at \$5 for both generics and brand-name drugs. In the basic managed care plans they proposed \$5 for generic prescriptions, \$10 for brand name, and \$10 for an office

visit. Only the managed Medicare plans were spared any co-payment increases.

Staff believes these measures will slow down the sharp rise in prescription costs, and cause some participants to choose generic rather than brand name prescriptions, when the physician agrees. Member and retiree representatives were concerned about the chronically ill and others who have high prescription usage. They suggested a dollar cap on the total amount of co-payments in a given year. It was pointed out that using mail orders would achieve considerable savings for participants. All of these matters were put over for decision until the May Board meeting. *See page 8 for final changes.* [WK]

Legislative Report

Legislative proposals that would benefit CSU-ERFA members are progressing through their houses of origin, waiting for the revised budget to see how much funding will be available. These include:

AB 1829 (Correa), which raises the death benefit to \$5000;

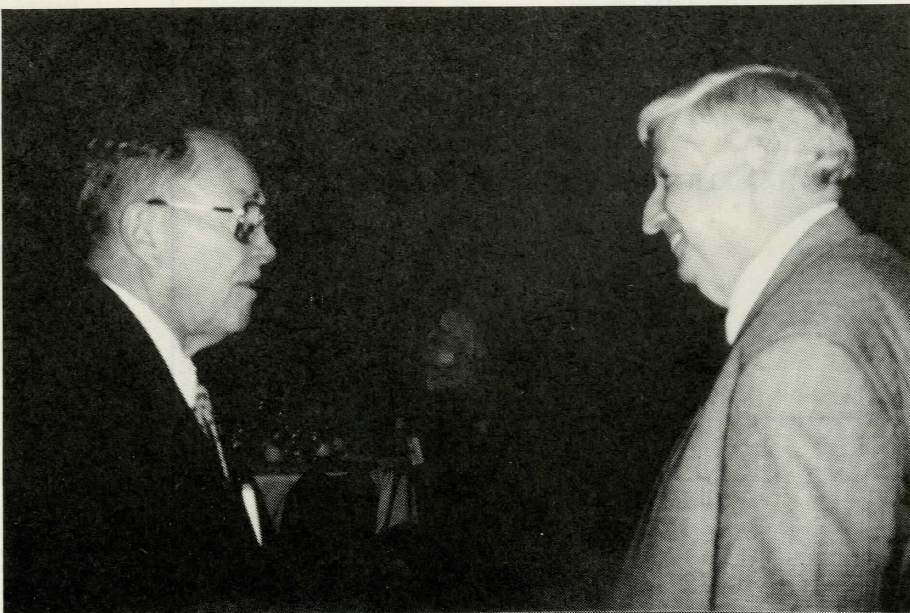
SB 1446 (Hughes), which guarantees purchasing power of retirement checks at 80 percent of the original value;

AB 2463 (Wiggins), which would improve our vision care; and **SB 1697 (Ortiz)**, which would provide an increase to bring equity compared to actives.

AB 107 (Knox), which would give the Legislature more power to control CalPERS investments in tobacco companies, is stalled in the Senate PERS Committee.

The CSU-ERFA State Council voted to oppose AB 107 because of its threat to the plenary powers granted to PERS under Prop. 162 (protecting members from raids on the budget and political interference). Many, however, favor a CalPERS internal decision to re-evaluate tobacco investments.

A similar bill, **SB 2122 (Ortiz)** would authorize the Legislature to create an Investment Board to advise CalPERS on investments. This bill is presently stalled in the Senate Appropriations Committee. [WK]



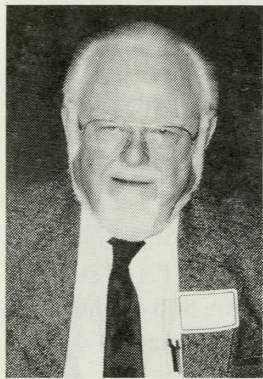
Robert Carlson of the CalPERS Board of Administration converses with CSU-ERFA Executive Director Robert Kully at the 15th Anniversary Celebration

[Photo by Judd Grenier]

Activities on Issues Facing the CSU

Acting on the basis of Article 4 of the CSU-ERFA Constitution ("continuing support, counsel, and service in the interests of its present and future students"), the State Council established an ad hoc committee on issues facing the CSU. The committee, composed of **David Elliott** (SJ), **Robert Maurer** (Chi), **June Pollak** (Ful), **Mark Van Aken** (Hay), and **Milt Dobkin** (Hum), chair, first consulted with a portion of the Executive Committee of the CSU Academic Senate. Faculty Trustee Harold Goldwhite and CSU-ERFA Executive Director Robert Kully, Los Angeles, also joined the group.

The discussion focused on matters raised at the State Council by Van Aken and Al Smith, as well as subjects introduced by Gene Dinielli, the Academic Senate chair, which encouraged more participation by CSU-ERFA in senate business. For example, we submitted a list of CSU-ERFA members who might participate, by senate appointment, in campus presidential reviews. The Senate approved that request and later made two such appointments.



Milt Dobkin

Although the senators shared some of the concerns expressed by CSU-ERFA, most were optimistic that such problems could or would be addressed satisfactorily. Their optimism was based on good relations with the chancellor and trustees.

The committee next accepted an invitation from the California Faculty Association to make a statement at a campus hearing at San José on "The Future of the CSU." The CSU-ERFA committee asked Van Aken to represent it, and his presentation was enthusiastically received. He joined other non-CFA figures such as Mary Burgan, AAUP executive secretary; William Pickens, chair of the Citizens Commission on Higher Education; and Ted Lempert, chair of the State Assembly Committee on Higher Education and vice co-chair of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Review of a Master Plan for Education.

Assemblyman Lempert invited the ad hoc committee to meet with him to discuss past efforts to reach the Joint Committee's staff and to get on a committee agenda to discuss the impact on students of departure from the letter and spirit of the Master Plan for Higher Education. Mr. Lempert expressed regret that CSU-ERFA had not been invited to meetings of the Joint Committee to present its "important perspective" and agreed to work with continuing members of the committee to provide such an opportunity in the fall.

At its meeting prior to the April State Council meeting the ad hoc committee decided to wait for the May CSU Academic Senate meeting and a May CFA-sponsored roundtable with legislators to determine what future activity, beyond testimony to the Joint Committee, might be proposed to the CSU-ERFA Executive Committee.

Milt Dobkin attended the roundtable and will report to the ad hoc committee. [MD]

We get letters...

Dear Professor Maurer: I second Professor Nathan Kravetz' remarks in his letter to the *Reporter* (Spring 2000). There is a need for the *Reporter* to focus on the special concerns of CSU retirees, rather than on matters of interest to actively employed professors. I notice that about half of your item, "The President Reports," deals with the latter.

Patrick Groff
SDSU

Maurer's reply: In reviewing the report to which you refer I find that your estimate is probably correct. I would only say that the Council had brought up those matters at that time so they would tend to have a certain prominence. You should note, however, that Wilma Krebs covers retirement and health benefits in her *Reporter* articles. . . . I suppose I could pad my articles with retiree stuff to make the balance seem better, but you and I both know that such an action would be so transparent as not to fool anyone.

I would remark in closing that the kind of education available to CSU students in the future is a major concern for all Californians, even retired CSU professors. My own grandchildren will be ready for college in a few short years and I hope that they have available to them the kind of education you and I provided our students in the past.

Bob Maurer
Chico

A husband and wife were chatting with friends about marriage counseling.

"Oh, we'll never need that. My husband and I have a great relationship," the wife explained. "He was a communications major in college and I majored in theater arts. He communicates real well and I act like I'm listening."

CFA: Who Speaks for the University?

THE CALIFORNIA FACULTY ASSOCIATION gave its answer by way of its Sacramento Lobby Day theme, "Faculty: the Real Voice of CSU." The faculty's voice was heard twice on this occasion: first, when CFA engaged several legislative leaders in a roundtable dialogue about "The Future of Higher Education in California and the Role of the CSU." Then some 100-plus faculty members visited over 90 legislators and their staff, discussing with them several crises facing the University. At the top of the list were the faculty's concerns about the 8.9 percent salary lag behind the system's comparison institutions and CFA's request for a budget augmentation for faculty salaries. The Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance tentatively approved an \$18.9 million augmentation for additional compensation for all CSU employees, \$10 million of which would increase the faculty compensation pool from 5 to 6 percent, consistent with the current bargaining agreement. Other CFA lobbying topics included requests for legislation that would provide for more administrative accountability overall, increase the ratio of full-time faculty positions, and fully compensate lecturers for collateral duties.

The legislative roundtable complemented the CFA-sponsored hearings on "The Future of the CSU," the first of which was held on March 14 at San José State University. Ralph Nader presented the keynote address, warning against the growing corporatization and commercialization of the university and their effects on the quality of higher education. The hearings enjoyed extensive press coverage. The second hearing in the series took place on May 9 at CSU Los Angeles, with

David Noble, educator, author, and nationally known advocate for public universities, as the keynote speaker.

In March, this year's round of "reopener" bargaining sessions began. The CFA team, consisting of 10 faculty from a wide range of campuses, presented some 24 initial proposals on the salary and benefit articles (the only

ones open for re-negotiation during the three-year contract.) CFA's specific proposals include 12-month appointments for department chairs with corresponding compensation, adding a cost-of-living component to the Unit 3 salary structure, removal of salary caps for all employees in the unit, salary parity for

counselors, appropriate compensation of faculty when year-round operation is implemented, and improved dental and vision care insurance.

Of particular interest to CSU-ERFA members: CFA proposes that all Unit 3 employees shall, upon retirement, be afforded dental insurance benefits at levels comparable to those during active CSU employment. Furthermore, CFA proposed that the FMI (Faculty Merit Increase) program be suspended for the coming academic year, to give both parties time to assess its impact during its first two years of implementation.

The next reopener sessions were held April 4 at CSU Sacramento, April 14 at CSU Long Beach, and May 12 at San José State. At all sessions, ground rules for bargaining meetings were a major topic: CFA wants all sessions to be open to faculty observers on the various campuses, while the administration wanted prior screening and mutual agreement on who is to be admitted. CFA has also made it clear that it reserves the right to designate local

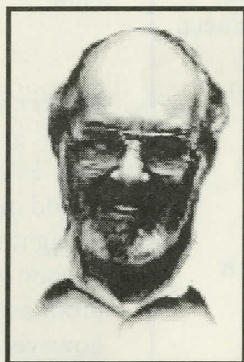
campus faculty as members of the bargaining team. In the end, the April and May sessions were well attended by local faculty.

By the time this issue of the *Reporter* is distributed, several more bargaining sessions will have taken place. The June sessions have been set for June 12 (CSU Long Beach), June 15-16 (Sacramento State), June 22-23 (CSU Dominguez Hills), and June 28-30 (San Luis Obispo). CSU-ERFA members interested in observing should contact the local CFA chapter. Naturally, the developments described above were discussion topics at the March CFA Assembly. The delegates were also informed that CFA now has close to 8,500 members, the highest level ever, thanks to the "Ask 2000 Campaign" and some 500 membership applications resulting from the agency fee ("fair share") notifications, mailed to nonmembers at the beginning of the year. The Agency Fee Task Force also reported that by late March only 87 challenges of fee computation and 103 religious objections had been filed. (A petition drive is underway for a rescission election, and the National Right To Work Foundation has filed a lawsuit against CFA, challenging the union's right to collect agency fees, but chances of either one to succeed appear slim.)

Finally, in mid-March, Governor Davis signed AB 211 (Romero, D-Los Angeles), a CFA-sponsored bill, into law: it allows CFA to bargain CalPERS health care benefits for lecturers appointed to work or teach at least six weighted teaching units for one term.

As always, check www.calfac.org for more details.

H. Dieter Renning
CSU-ERFA liaison to CFA



H. Dieter Renning

News from CalPERS

CALPERS HAS ADDED A NEW ONLINE PHYSICIAN DIRECTORY to its Web site at www.calpers.ca.gov. The directory contains background information on physicians affiliated with the 10 CalPERS HMOs and the two self-funded CalPERS preferred provider organizations, PERSCare and PERSChoice. It contains a search feature that can locate physicians by geographical area, by medical specialty, by health plan, or by the name.

The directory makes it easier for CalPERS members to find out which doctors in their local community are affiliated with a particular health plan. It also makes it easier to compare local doctors according to their experience, medical training, clinical specialties, office hours, special services, hospital affiliations, board certification, and whether they have any licensing issues.

The on-line directory will be especially useful during the annual CalPERS open enrollment period. The most frequently asked question during open enrollment is whether the member's favorite doctor will still be available through a different health plan.

The new Web feature also gives CalPERS members access to an extensive data base of hospitals and other health care facilities. There is

also an online library of more than 70 articles on how to prevent, detect, and treat ailments like diabetes, breast cancer, and cardiovascular disease.

The directory can be reached by going to the home page of the CalPERS Web site at www.calpers.ca.gov and then clicking on "CalPERS Physician Directory & Health Information."

A NEW AND IMPROVED LONG-TERM CARE PROGRAM is now available.

CalPERS announced it is offering improved benefits with all its existing long-term care plans with no increase in premiums. In addition, it now offers a new, lower-cost, lower benefit plan option, designed for those who seek limited protection at a lower cost. The application period began on April 1 and ends June 30, 2000.

Major benefit improvements have been added to all three of the existing CalPERS long-term care plans. The improved benefits apply to new plan members, as well as current plan members. For two of the three existing CalPERS long-term care plans -- the Comprehensive Plan and the Nursing Home/Assisted Living Facility Only Plan -- the deductible period has been changed from 90 "service days" to 90 "calendar days." The change mainly affects in-home care and adult day care benefits. Members using either of those two

benefits will now be able to satisfy the deductible significantly sooner. After April 1, 2000, the benefit payments will begin on the 91st day following the date of the first covered paid service.

For the third existing CalPERS Long-Term Care Plan -- the Partnership Plan -- the deductible period has been changed from 30 "service days" to 30 "calendar days." In addition, a hospice benefit has been added to all three existing plans, paying for long term care services for the terminally ill that are not covered by regular health plans or by Medicare.

The improved benefit will automatically apply to existing and new members, with no additional action required. Information on all the changes is being mailed to existing members.

CalPERS is also offering several new long-term care options with reduced premiums in return for slightly reduced benefits. The lower-cost options are designed for those who prefer a lower level of protection -- either because they have enough savings to pay for some of their own long-term care needs, or because they cannot afford full coverage.

For an application kit, call toll-free (800) 338-2244 or visit the Web site at www.calpers.ca.gov.

Would you Like to Teach in Russia?

PERM TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY and Perm State Medical Academy are seeking faculty for short-term assignments to familiarize Russian professors with English terminology and American trends in professional fields. Fifteen-hour courses in five-hour segments over three days in business administration, engineering, science, health care management, medicine, linguistics (high priority at present) and education are being sought. English is the language of instruction.

The goal of the faculty-to-faculty program is to upgrade the faculty in Perm, a city open to the West only since 1995.

Participants are responsible for transportation costs to Russia, but the host universities cover other expenses in Perm (housing, meals, and local transportation, e.g.).

For more information, send a fax message to **Rita Jones**, emeritus professor of education (Long Beach) at 714-633-8508.

State Council Elects Officers for 2000-2001

THE CSU-ERFA STATE COUNCIL, at its April meeting, endorsed the recommendations of the nominating committee for association officers and three at-large members of the Council.

Robert Maurer (Chico), president

Ronald Kroman (Long Beach), vice president

Judson Grenier (Dominguez Hills), secretary

Sol Buchalter (Northridge), treasurer

Ralph Bigelow (Fullerton), *Reporter* editor

All officers were elected to one-year terms. In addition, the Council elected three delegate-at-large members to the Council, each for three-year terms:

C. Dale Johnson (San Diego)

June Pollak (Fullerton)

Frieda Stahl (Los Angeles)

Continuing on the Council as delegates-at-large for the remaining two years of their terms are **Don Cameron** (Northridge), **Frank Tennant** (Pomona), and **Jerome Beamish** (Stanislaus); and for the remaining one year of their terms: **Robert Gronendyke** (Sonoma), **Gordon Stanton** (San Bernardino), and **Mark Van Aken** (Hayward).

Following the election, President Maurer recommended to the Council the reappointment of all present committee chairs (membership excepted), liaison officers, and executive committee at-large members. The Council endorsed his recommendations. (The membership chair is yet to be named.)

Past President Emmett Long (Fullerton) chaired the nominating committee.

In Memoriam

Chico: **Victor Powers, Patricia E.**

Sullivan, Beverly Wadsworth

Fresno: **Heyward Moore**

Fullerton: **Calvin C. Nelson**

Hayward: **Denis M. de Coteau, Nestor V. Gonzalez**

Humboldt: **Ethelyn Pauley, William H. Raleigh**

Long Beach: **Roy C. Anderson, Chi-Hwa Chen, James Crafts, Elton L. Mosher, Robert C. Wylder**

Los Angeles: **Hugh S. Bonar, Jr., Vincent A. Giroux, William Mays**

Northridge: **Allen W. Graves, Council S. Taylor**

Pomona: **Mel D. Compton**

Sacramento: **Wilma F. Allerton, Gerald Larson, Kazuo Z. Ninomiya, Willard W. Smith**

San Diego: **Donald B. Leiffer, Frederick C. Whitney**

San Francisco: **William Dickey, James H. Stone**

San José: **Henry C. Meckel, Marion C. Pfund, Hartley D. Snyder**

San Luis Obispo: **Robert K. Coe, William B. Judd, Paul E. Scheffer, Laurence F. Talbot**

News from CSU

THE PERCENTAGE OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FRESHMEN needing remedial education has decreased for the first time. About 48 percent of freshmen entering the CSU in the fall of 1999 needed remediation in math, a six percent decrease from the fall of 1998, and 46 percent needed it in English, a one percent decrease from one year earlier.

More than 79 percent of incoming fall 1998 freshmen needing remedial education became proficient in English and mathematics prior to their sophomore year. An additional seven percent were granted temporary exceptions on a case-by-case basis, and seven percent were asked to seek assistance at a community college before returning to the CSU. Another seven percent left the CSU for other reasons.

Students Rate CSU Education

NEARLY 80 PERCENT of California State University students rate the quality of their instruction as excellent or good, and about three-fourths reported the same about CSU faculty teaching skills and enthusiasm, according to preliminary findings of the system's Student Needs and Priorities Assessment Survey (SNAPS). The survey, conducted by the CSU about every five years, was completed by a representative sample of more than 18,000 students throughout the state.

While CSU students are pleased with the quality of the education they receive, they are concerned about access issues. Less than 40 percent ranked as good or excellent the availability of classes. Almost all of the 19 key questions on access and quality, however, are rated higher than they were in 1994.

Academic Senate Elects New Officers

The CSU Academic Senate elected its officers for 2000-01 at its May meeting:

Chair: **Jacquelyn Kegley**, professor of philosophy, Bakersfield

Vice Chair: **David McNeil**, San José

Secretary: **Les Pincu**, professor of criminology, Fresno

Members at Large, Executive Committee: **Cristy Jensen**, professor of public policy and administration, Sacramento; **Raford Boddy**, professor of economics, San Diego

Gene Dinelli, professor of English, Long Beach, will continue to serve on the executive committee as immediate past chair.

Also at its May meeting, the Senate adopted resolutions:

- setting forth 10 principles of year-round operation;
- recommending collaboration between the Senate and the Chancellor to improve shared government;
- encouraging campus senates to join with the CSU Senate to better relations with members of the Legislature;
- reaffirming the 1985 statement on collegiality;
- revising the proposed changes to undergraduate degree requirements (ensuring that 120 units is a minimum, not a goal);
- commending Vice Chancellor Spence and the Office of the Chancellor working with the Senate on the Channel Islands Task Force;

- expressing appreciation for the draft strategic plan for libraries prepared by the Council of Library Directors;

- approving standards on subject matter preparation or a passing score on an appropriate test for credentialing;

- stating budget priorities for 2001-02 (compensation to ensure quality, closing the salary gap, and to support projected enrollment increases); and

- replacing retiring faculty with tenure-track hires.

A first reading was given to a memorandum of understanding between the California Community Colleges, and the CSU.

At its earlier meeting in March the Senate adopted resolutions:

- aligning admissions requirements for teacher credential programs in the CSU;
- proposing revisions to admissions criteria in Title 5;
- setting the Senate calendar for 2000-01;
- extending the waiver for the college preparatory requirement in the visual and performing arts; and
- addressing community service and service learning in the CSU.

At both meetings, as is the custom, the members heard reports from the Senate chair, the chancellor, the vice chancellors and other officers from the Chancellor's Office, each of whom responded to questions from the floor.

We Get More Letters—

To Dr. Robert Kully:

I just got a call from the Personnel Office informing me that the Chancellor's Office had confirmed the information you had given me . . . indicating that my Delta Dental coverage will remain at Level II during the FERP years. Thanks to the information you provided me and the confidence that it gave me, I was able to successfully challenge the information that the Personnel Office had been telling me. I immediately will be saving about ten times what the [CSU-ERFA] dues for a year had cost me. A pretty good deal I would say. Many thanks.

Larry Cohen
CSU San Marcos



California Doctors Sue HMOs for Racketeering

News accounts in late May reported that the California Medical Association launched a lawsuit accusing the state's three largest for-profit health insurers of imposing unfair contract and payment terms on doctors. The suit was filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, under the civil RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act) laws.

It claims that California physicians have had their business damaged and their patients victimized because of racketeering activity on the part of California Blue Cross, a unit of WellPoint Health Networks Inc, Health Net, a subsidiary of Foundation Health Systems Inc., and PacifiCare Health Systems Inc. The three plans insure the health needs of more than nine million Californians.

THE CSU-ERFA OFFICE encountered staffing misfortunes following the State Council meeting and Anniversary Celebration. First, our office manager, **Linda Zimmerman**, was ill for several weeks. Second, the administrative assistant is no longer with us. Linda is now back on the job (we are pleased with her recovery) and we are recruiting for the part-time assistant position.

Executive Committee 1999-2000

Robert Maurer (Chico) *president*

Ronald A. Kroman (Long Beach)
vice president

C. Dale Johnson (San Diego) *secretary*

Sol Buchalter (Northridge) *treasurer*

Emmett Long (Fullerton)
past president

Wilma Krebs (Sacramento)
member at large

Milton Dobkin (Humboldt)
member at large

Eleanor Price (Dominguez Hills)
member at large

David Elliott (San José)
member at large

Ralph Bigelow (Fullerton)
Reporter editor

Robert D. Kully (Los Angeles)
executive director

Committee Chairs

Hal Barrett (Hayward)
dispersed membership

James Ryan (Long Beach) *membership*

Ralph Bigelow (Fullerton)
publications

Wilma Krebs (Sacramento)
legislative

Kurt Bohnsack (San Diego)
retirement concerns

Max Norton (Stanislaus)
Foundation grant awards

H. Dieter Renning (Stanislaus)
liaison to CFA

Don Moore (Los Angeles)
liaison to CSU Senate

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

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PERS Acts on Copayments at May Board Meeting

THE CALPERS BOARD adopted the following changes in prescription co-payments:

Acute Drugs (for illness of short duration): for generics, \$5 retail, \$5 mail order; for single source brand-names, \$10 retail, \$5 mail order; for brand name (generic available) \$15 retail, \$15 mail order.

Maintenance Drugs (generic or brand) initial prescription, \$5 retail, \$5 mail order (but co-pay goes up to \$15 for brand-name drug thereafter, both at retail and mail order). Board member Robert Carlson was successful in amending this with an exception for cases where there was not a generic equivalent which would not cause an adverse allergic reaction.

Staff also reported that Kaiser and possibly other health plans do not believe that they have the capability to implement all of the changes passed by the Board. PERS will also have to pass a state regulatory review. So not final yet. [WK]

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