

REPORTER

Highlights:

- Premiums go lower. See below
- Grant guidelines on page 5
- News Briefs on page 4

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

Some hospitals cut

Medicare premiums will be lower

By Wilma Krebs, Sacramento
Chair, Legislative Committee

The good news is that premiums in our Medicare-coordinated health plans will be lower by 8 to 14 percent in 2005. The state contribution to retirees (the 100-90 formula) will increase from \$331 to \$362 for one person, and from \$621 to \$677 for two. One of the factors is that Medicare reimbursement from the federal government has increased.

In addition, CalPERS has reduced hospital cost by eliminating hospitals with excessive charges in the Blue Shield HMO network. Members affected by this change may need to find a new primary care physician, if the physician was affiliated with an excluded hospital such as Sutter. Some physicians have more than one hospital affiliation.

Members should also consider other specialists they use. Assistance will be available both by phone and on the Web sites for Blue Shield and CalPERS. An alternative worth considering is to transfer to PERS Choice or PERS Care, where you can select your own physicians and be able to continue with the ones you are now using.

If you join PERS Choice there will be no increase in premium cost — your monthly premium may be actually lower. (This assumes that your providers accept Medicare assignment). Other charges will be

The CSU-ERFA Foundation board (above) met July 10 in Los Angeles. Attending were, from left, Emmett Long, Jerome Beamish, Robert Maurer, Max Norton and Eleanor Price.

Foundation meets in Los Angeles

By Max Norton, Stanislaus
Chair, Grant Awards Committee

The CSU-ERFA Foundation is in operation. The summer 2004 meeting of the Board of Directors was at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles, on July 10.

Robert Maurer, president of the board, called the meeting to order and announced the agenda as follows:

One. Election of member at large. Max Norton, Stanislaus, was nominated and elected for a full term of two years.

Two. Election of officers.

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Executive Committee**2004-2005**

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Judson Grenier (Dominguez Hills), secretary

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Milton Dobkin (Humboldt), health benefits

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Sam Wiley (Dominguez Hills), pre- and post-retirement

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Ronald Kroman (Long Beach), liaison to CSU Academic Senate

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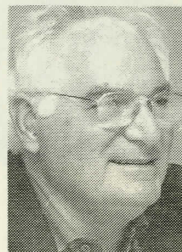
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From the president ...

Public versus private schools

By **Larry Ianni**, San Francisco
CSU-ERFA president

Considerable attention has been given to the fact that one of the four candidates proposed by the two major parties for the two highest government positions in the land was educated in the public school system and at a public university.



Ianni

Why is this fact worthy of special note? Is it extraordinary that the recipient of a public education has been deemed qualified for the highest offices in the land? Is the quality of a public education so poor that it is remarkable for one of its recipients to be considered to lead?

One would probably not get an argument from the vast majority of Americans if one asserted that a prestigious private education makes one more likely to be considered qualified to hold one of the two posts in question. If one surveyed Americans asking if the typical private university education is of superior quality to a typical public university education, the majority would answer that it is. The same result would be obtained if the question were asked with regard to private and public K-12 educations.

A lot of time could be spent fruitlessly arguing over these questions by citing the exceptional examples at both ends of the quality spectrum among public and private schools. However, it remains sensible to consider the questions if one sets the

atypical examples aside. Generally, Americans have the impression that private K-12 education is vastly superior in quality to the public version and that the results of this situation channels K-12 graduates into universities with similar qualitative differences for their higher education.

Hence the outcome that not only public life but also the professional and business elite is dominated by the products of private education. The majority of Americans would accept this sweeping though slippery generalization.

There are those who consider this situation a result of recent deterioration in the public education system. (I spent a 45-year career in public education in assignments ranging from teaching seventh graders through Ph.D. students. I was always told that the deterioration of the public schools had just happened a few years previously. I hope I will be excused for not wanting to verify the specific moment.)

For the sake of argument, accept the assertion that public schools have deteriorated and consider how society should correct the situation and either return the public schools to their former zenith or have public education exceed its former peak of quality.

Like everyone else, I have my favorite solution. I would require the president of the United States, his staff and the Congress to send their children to school in the District of Columbia. Leaving the federal government free to make the District of Columbia schools as good as

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More about ...

Medicare cost reductions of 8 to 14% begin next year

Continued from page 1.

the same or less, with very few exceptions.

There will also be Open Enrollment information in

August and September. No action needs to be taken until the changes take place Jan. 1, 2005. But you may want to do some preparation. As of

this writing, CalPERS has restored four previously excluded hospitals, based on their now meeting our cost and quality criteria.

The next big effort by CalPERS is the requirement that all those who have or can qualify for Medicare Part A without cost, and Medicare Part B, must do so, and if they are currently in a basic plan, must transfer into a Medicare-coordinated plan.

If you receive a letter from CalPERS on this subject you must reply within 30 days, providing a copy of your Medicare card and any dependent's Medicare card.

Otherwise, you must complete and return the enclosed Certification of Medicare Status form.

Some members may not be aware they can qualify through a spouse (current, former or deceased). You may have deferred getting Part B if you are still working.

Those who retire, go on FERP, and are 65 years old (or older) qualify for Medicare Part A and Part B, if they have the requisite 40 calendar quarters of Social Security tax deductions.

Those individuals must get Medicare and go into a Medicare-coordinated health plan (not a basic plan). The only exception is the member who was 65 and qualified for Medicare before Jan. 1, 2001.

Transferring more members to Medicare plans benefits all of us. Medicare pays for a large amount of coverage, thus providing funds to enhance quality and reduce healthcare costs for all of us.✓

More from the president ...

their wisdom and imaginations would take them, I would then tell the citizens they should demand schools as good in their locale as the ones the federal officials send their children to in the District of Columbia.

It would not take more than a decade for the American public school system to be superb in educational quality. The qualitative improvement of the public university system would become an inexorable demand after the public K-12 schools had improved so dramatically.

Someone with whom I shared my quality improvement plan has already pointed out a flaw in it. She says I would be asking elected federal official to sacrifice the futures of their children until the improvements were in place; they should not be expected to do that. However, I don't think implementation in D.C. would take long as the first step.

Once it was announced that the incumbent of the White House would be sending his or her children to public schools, I expect that those schools would be re-staffed and repaired and re-equipped in 72 hours. Improvement in the other schools in D.C. would take longer, perhaps three months. Of course, it would take enormous amounts of money to implement this educational improvement plan. I can only respond that nations that

can only afford quality for the few do not deserve to call themselves democracies and are not qualified to run around and tell how they are to institute a democratic government.

Money does not automatically produce quality, but quality is unlikely without it. I was once the provost of one of the campuses in the CSU. During that time I encountered the following statistic: The budget of the CSU for an enrollment of 350,000 students was \$1 billion. The budget of Stanford, unquestionably a superior university, was half of that to educate 12,000 students.

I am aware that fine institution has some expensive programs that do not exist in the CSU — to give one example, a medical school has a very expensive student-faculty ratio. A medical school I had some association with had a two-to-one student faculty ratio. Thus Stanford has some high costs built in.

It is relevant to note that a couple of the largest CSU institutions at the time, SDSU and SJSU, had about three times the enrollment of Stanford and budgets that were approximately one-fourth to one-third the size of Stanford's. It is fair to say that the aforementioned institutions could not possibly provide with their much smaller budgets the quality that their private college was providing. The remarkable thing is that they came so close to that level of excellence.✓

Ed White still teaches

Ed White, who began FERPing at San Bernardino in 1997, remains a visiting professor of English at the University of Arizona, where he teaches in the graduate program — Rhetoric, Composition and the Teaching of English.

He coedited two books published last year: a new writing text, "Inquiry," with Prentice-Hall, and a scholarly collection, "Composition Studies in the New Millennium," with Southern Illinois University Press.

He and his wife, Volney, live in Flagstaff, near family, enjoying a lovely community and good health. He would enjoy hearing from Cal State friends at emwhite@u.arizona.edu✓

Picking a senator

Leonard Mathy's term as the retiree senator on the CSU Academic Senate will end next June.

CSU-ERFA is responsible for selecting the retiree senator. All CSU faculty retirees are eligible to be selected and to serve as the retiree senator.

The deadline for submitting nominations to CSU-ERFA will be March 25, 2005.

The procedures for selection of the retiree member on the CSU Academic Senate will be in the next Reporter.✓

Siblings, too

You may know that your spouse, parents and parents-in-law are eligible for the CalPERS Long Term Care Program, but did you know that your siblings (age 18 and older) are also eligible?

This year's open enrollment ends Aug. 31, 2004, unless extended by CalPERS. Call 1-800-266-1050 or use the website www.calpers.ca.gov.✓

Welcome, new members

DOMINGUEZ HILLS — Anthony J. Garavente

FULLERTON — Stephen D. Simon

HUMBOLDT — Nathan T. Smith

LONG BEACH — Harold L. Cannon, Joan E. McCauley

SAN FRANCISCO — James E. Brogan

SAN DIEGO — Joan M. Flagg, Stephen J. Pierce

SAN JOSE — Shirley G. Streifer

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Herbert A. DeKleine

SONOMA — Johanna Fritsche✓

In memoriam

FRESNO — Carl E. Levin

FULLERTON — Tracy W. Gaffey, Edith L. McCullough

HUMBOLDT — John C. Hennessy

LONG BEACH — Arlene A. Roster, Braxton C.

Henderson, Elizabeth O. Dupont

LOS ANGELES — Keith D. Snyder

SAN DIEGO — Carmen L. Guanipa

SAN JOSE — William S. Penn

SONOMA — Marie K. Luethe✓

Legislative Report

• AB 1957 (Frommer) — Requires Department of General Services to establish pilot programs to determine potential savings if prescription drugs are purchased in Canada.

• AB 1958 (Frommer) — Encourages CalPERS to establish or participate in a drug purchasing coalition. Hearing Aug. 2 Senate Appropriations.

• AB 1959 (Chu, Frommer, Pavely) — would allow state auditor to review health-related contracts to determine if we are getting acceptable prices. Senate Appropriation, action suspended.

• AB 1960 (Frommer, Pavely) — Imposes fiduciary duty on pharmacy benefit managers to act in the best interest of purchasers. Senate third reading, Aug. 18.

• AB 1927 (Cohn) — Vision care. Referred to Senate committees of Insurance and HHS.

• SB 126 (Chesbro) — Rural health equity program, Action delayed.

• SB 1921 (Kuehl) — Universal health care (single payer) To Assembly Appropriations.

State budget: "Had the

Legislature voted to approve the governor's budget as it stood on June 30, it would have meant that we had simply given up on higher education, health services for low-income seniors and the disabled, any chance of ever fixing the structural imbalance in the allocation of tax revenues between the state and local government, and the ability to enhance state revenues by charging fees under the 'polluter pays' principle.

"Even though the administrators for UC and CSU agreed with the governor to give up funding in return for a promise of more in a few years, the Legislature continues to press to restore more income to America's finest system of public education. We held out past the budget deadline, and the governor may be relenting and approving funding for the 3,200 students who qualified for admission to UC and the 3,800 who qualified for admission to the CSU but were 're-directed' to community colleges.

"Student fees will still rise so steeply that even more qualified students will just decide they can't go. Overturning decades of established policy, the portion of fees directed toward financial aid will decrease, even though fees go up. Perhaps there is more to be gained by further negotiation." — **Sen. Sheila Kuehl, July 6, 2004**✓

From here ...

Briefs

... and there

The purpose of the CSU-ERFA Grant Awards is to fund support those members who want to continue their academic research or creative and artistic endeavors.

Please note the "Guidelines for Approval of Grants" on this page provide that the opening date for submission of grant applications will be Sept. 30, 2004; the deadline for submission is Jan. 31, 2005.

The guidelines also require that proposals must be submitted as a hard copy. Applicants who also want to send their proposals by e-mail or fax may do so. But only hard copies sent by postal mail will be reviewed.

Of special interest are items 1 and 2 under I, Purpose of the Program. Special attention will be given to proposals that contribute to the "quality of life" and support of and information about CSU retirees.

On Feb. 21, 2004, the CSU-ERFA Executive Committee approved unanimously a motion that "at least half of the grant money expended annually go to [acceptable] proposals that address the concerns of retirees." The committee will review proposals on other topics and could fund them as it has in the past.

— Robert Kully

CSU-ERFA executive director

The CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association Grant Awards Program:

• Guidelines for Approval of Grants •

I. Purpose of the Fund

CSU-ERFA established the Grant Awards Program to provide financial support to assist and encourage CSU retirees to continue their research and scholarship after leaving their active academic positions. The funds can be used for the following purposes:

1. Scholarly research of issues important to CSU retirees.
2. Research that contributes to the quality of life of CSU retirees, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Retirement policies and practices throughout the country.
 - b. Benefits, rights and privileges of CSU-ERFA retirees on CSU campuses.
 - c. Public laws and policies related to the maintenance and quality of life of retirees.
3. Publication endeavors of retirees as contributing member of the academic community.
4. Conducting projects pertaining to the history of the institutions related to the California State University System.
5. Research and creative projects that directly benefit a given academic discipline.

II. Criteria for Acceptance of Grant Applications:

1. The applicant must be a member in good standing of CSU-ERFA.
2. The degree to which the project or activity will contribute to the achievement of one or more of the cited in paragraph I.
3. The degree to which the project involves reason and observation in a purposeful format, including, but not limited to, statements of problem and hypothesis; and formulation of sequences and phases involved in the application of acceptable research methodologies.
4. The degree to which historical and biographical studies foster artistic or scholarly achievement based upon a given cultural heritage.
5. The degree to which the project fosters individual scholarly and artistic achievement.

III. Administration of the Program:

1. The Grant Awards Committee shall have responsibility for the establishment of periodic schedules for the submission and approval of grant applications subject to the approval of the CSU-ERFA Executive Committee.
2. The opening date for the submission of grant applications will be Sept. 30; applications must be received on or before Jan. 31. A Proposal must be submitted as a hard copy. If applicants also wish to send their proposals by email or fax, they can do so, but only hard copies will be reviewed.
3. Grant applications shall be reviewed by the Grant Awards Committee in accordance with the purposes and criteria as set forth in Paragraphs I and II.
4. All criteria noted in Paragraph II shall be assigned equal value in the assessment of the comparative merits of grant applications.
5. Recommendations for approval of applications shall be the sole responsibility of the Grant Awards Committee.
6. Approval of awards shall be the sole responsibility of the CSU-ERFA Executive Committee.
7. Approval of grant awards shall be subject to the budgetary limitations established by the CSU-ERFA Executive Committee.

Academic Senate marks 40 years; new officers elected

By Ron Kroman, Long Beach

Liaison to CSU Academic Senate

The CSU Academic Senate celebrated its 40th anniversary May 3-5. Leonard Mathy, the representative to the Senate for all retired faculty and a CSU-ERFA member, was its first chair during the 1963-4 term.

At the May plenary meeting officers for the coming academic year were elected. They are David McNeil, chair (San Jose); Marshelle Thobaben, vice chair (Humboldt); John Tarjan, secretary (Bakersfield); and members-at-large, Lynne Cook (Northridge) and Cristy Jensen (Sacramento).

Chancellor Charles B. Reed, who is regularly invited to speak to the Senate, reported of his efforts to lobby state legislators on behalf of the CSU. The chancellor not only discussed the effect of the budget crisis with CSU-friendly legislators such as John Vasconcellos of San Jose and John Burton of San Francisco, but spent much of his time "educating" the more recently elected legislators.

For example, many of the junior legislators were unaware that teachers, as part of their education, are required to take postbaccalaureate courses. He also reported that he spoke on behalf of the CSU to the staff of the newly elected governor (besides the governor himself).

Reed told the legislators of the important role that the CSU plays in California's economy. He stressed that budget cuts cannot only seriously damage

access and affordability of students to attend the CSU, but, equally important, damage to the quality of education.

The Senate regularly invites a member of the Board of Trustees to speak; Shailesh Mehta was the trustee who spoke at this meeting. He was, among other positions, the past CEO of the Provident Financial Corp.

He pointed out that whenever the CSU "recovered" from a financial crisis in the past, the losses have never been recouped. This situation has led to a gradual deterioration of the system.

Presently the CSU gets about 85 percent of its support from the state and the balance from other sources. Trustee Mehta predicts that the proportion of state support will decrease in the future and will continue to do so. This situation has made the ability for a campus president to raise funds an important consideration by the board in the selection of presidents.

The selection of campus presidents has proven to be very difficult. California is just not competitive. For example, in the case of CSU Fullerton, five offers for the presidential position were made and each was rejected.

In his report to the Senate, David Spence, associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, said that the current overall reduction in state support for the CSU was 22 percent. When asked by what percentage the Chancellor's Office budget would be reduced he replied that it would be about 14 to 15 percent.

The vice chancellor suggested that some businesses or industries might be willing to

support particular students or even specific programs. The question was raised as to whether the state would assume support of a program that had been previously supported by a private source, if the private funding ceased.

The Senate had over 20 resolutions to act upon; all presented were second readings. There was also action on several commendations given by the Senate for meritorious service to the body or the CSU including two commendations to state Senate legislators: Vasconcellos and Deirdre Alpert for their support for higher education.

The Senate has established a "Distinguished Legislative Staff Award" and the first recipient is Diane Cummins who has served as chief fiscal policy adviser to the president pro tem of the California State Senate.

Among the resolutions passed was one requesting adequate faculty representation on search committees for positions at the CSU headquarters; a resolution requesting that the Senate be consulted by the trustees concerning budget reductions; a resolution on financing the Master Plan by stressing to the Legislature the negative results of reduced support; and a resolution supporting an Assembly measure that declares top priority by the Legislature in future budgets to (gradually) restore the losses to the CSU to keep the Master Plan alive.

A resolution that did not pass concerned higher fees for students repeating a class several times.

The next meeting of the Senate will be Sept. 9-10. ✓

More about

CFA and budget

Continued from page 8.

UC system.

At that point CFA, and the CFA-sponsored "Coalition to Save the CSU," intensified their efforts to alert the public and, in particular, the Legislature to the consequences for higher education, especially concerning access to the CSU, if the proposed budget cuts were to be implemented. In the following weeks CFA representatives testified in legislative hearings, sponsored or co-sponsored town hall meetings across the state, and helped organize e-mail and phone-in campaigns to legislators and the governor.

These efforts did pay off, when the legislative leaders declared higher education their "No. 1 priority," and the budget subcommittees of the Assembly and the Senate restored to the CSU budget more than \$200 million of the \$240 million the governor

had proposed to cut.

The main concern, protecting student access to the CSU, was also highlighted at a press conference at the Capitol June 23, conducted by CFA leaders and student representatives. Leaders of the Educational Opportunity Program also spoke, emphasizing the need to preserve accessibility for low-income students.

At this writing the budget standoff between the Legislature and the governor has not been resolved.

On a more cheerful note: In June the American Association of University Professors at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C., gave the Marilyn Sternberg Award to CFA's immediate past president, Susan Meisenholder. The English professor at San Bernardino and chair of CFA's Political Action and Legislative Committee received the award for her "concern for human rights, courage, persistence, political foresight, imagi-

nation and collective bargaining skills."✓

More about

CSU-ERFA Foundation

Continued from page 1.

Elected were president, Maurer, Chico; vice president, Eleanor Price, Dominguez Hills; secretary, Max Norton, Stanislaus; and Treasurer, June Pollack, Los Angeles.

Three. The following CSU-ERFA members were elected to the Board of Directors of the foundation for the 2004-05 year: June Pollack, Los Angeles; Robert Maurer, Chico; Max Norton, Stanislaus; Eleanor Price, Dominguez Hills; Emmett Long, Los Angeles; and Jerome Beamish, Stanislaus.

Four. Funds were appropriated for use by the Grant and Awards Committee. The amount of up to \$2,500 was authorized for funding of grants and creative projects for the 2004-5 year. Norton reported that it was the consensus of the Grants and Awards Committee that the funds would only be used for proposals that met the criteria as published in the guidelines for the awarding of grants. ✓

'Alert' was warning on CalPERS letter

The special mailing of the "Alert" was an effort to ensure that our members were aware that CalPERS would be contacting retirees about the new mandatory enrollment of all eligible retirees in Medicare Parts A and B.

We were concerned that the short (30-day) response deadline would adversely affect those members who might be traveling or otherwise miss the forthcoming mailing.

Because CalPERS decided to mail letters first to retirees that were 65 and still in "basic" plans rather than supplement-to-Medicare plans, some of our members still have not received letters.

In retrospect, the CSU-ERFA office, and Milt Dobkin and Wilma Krebs, would have received fewer e-mails and/or phone calls if the "Alert" mailing had been limited to members of appropriate age and plan enrollment. Unfortunately the organization does not have such data on file.

It is our hope that plans to collect these data will result in a savings of effort, time, and resources in the future.

— **Milt Dobkin, Humboldt, at large member of executive committee.**✓

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 include a phone number or an e-mail address.

Please send items to:

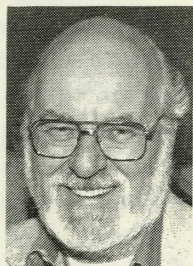
2123 H St., Eureka, Calif.
95501-3703

707/445-0286✓

Quiet summer turns busy for CFA — over budget

By Dieter Renning, Stanislaus
Liaison to CFA

What should have been a quiet summer break turned out to be a very busy season for the California Faculty Association. Its main preoccupation: the CSU budget for the coming academic year.



Renning

With the state finances in the shape they're in, it was inevitable that funding of California's university systems would come under harsh scrutiny. For the CSU it meant the prospect of another year of

severe cuts. What the CFA had hoped for was some meeting of the minds between CSU faculty, Trustees, and administration, jointly to resist as much as possible any further deterioration in the university's financial health.

What CFA was not prepared for was a "Higher Education Compact" between the Governor and the Chancellor, negotiated behind closed doors and announced on June 8. In this agreement, which entered into the Governor's "May Revise" of the proposed budget, the CSU accepts the \$240 million cuts from the CSU budget which were contained in the Governor's January budget proposal, thereby denying some 23,000 qualified

students access to the system next academic year. The other side of the "deal" are promises by the Governor that enrollments and the base budget would increase in future years — promises that are not legally enforceable.

The CFA leadership immediately expressed its disappointment, describing the "compact" as a "strategic blunder" on the part of the Chancellor and as "terribly detrimental to the quality of education in and student access to the CSU." By comparison, CFA pointed out, the CSU was actually being treated far worse than the K-12 schools, community colleges or

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California State University- Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

The Retiree Center
18111 Nordhoff St.
Northridge, Calif. 91330-8339

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

Address service requested

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