



AAUP CTA NEA CSEA SEIU AFL-CIO

Cal Poly Pomona Chapter

Telephone: 909-869-4818 Fax: 909-869-6808

homepage: www.csupomona.edu/~cfa

18 June 2009

Dr. J. Michael Ortiz, President
Cal Poly Pomona
3801 W. Temple Ave.
Pomona CA 91768

Dear President Ortiz,

The CFA and faculty in general are naturally very concerned about the direction of the discussion of the budget cut. We realize the salaries and benefits of the faculty and staff constitute a large chunk of the expenditure of the university. A two-day-per-month furlough has been mentioned, which amounts to a pay cut of over 10%. For someone making little money, this will be a catastrophe. The faculty resist volunteering for this kind of disaster.

We also feel there has been inadequate consultation and communication on the part of the administration, from the Chancellor's Office on down. We know you do not have full, detailed information on the budget cuts from Sacramento. However, your decision to cancel the regular summer quarter and 'replace' it with Extended University courses was news to us. Surely, you decided on this course of action before you announced it, and hence could have run it past the Academic Senate Executive Committee, CFA Executive Board, or some other faculty leadership group beforehand. When people do not get to participate in decisions that affect them radically and negatively, they tend to reject them.

We would feel more assured of a reasonable future if we saw the system and university top administrators speaking out forcefully on behalf of the CSU and public education. The causes of the University's budget crisis are largely political. The governor and legislature are responsible in large part for sabotaging the revenue stream on which we depend. For them to suppose that we can do our work satisfactorily without full state support is lunacy. Why would it be wrong for the intellectual leaders of the state – the administrators of the world-famous institutions of public education of California – to point out these grim facts and suggest that if it was human [in]action that caused the problems, then human action can fix them? Is the only action of which we as a community are capable cutting public programs? We think you should be better advocates for higher education.

If furloughs are proposed, we insist they be measured in Weighted TEACHING Units. That is to say, we should be relieved of units of teaching, not simply assigned and related duties. We know full well that department meetings will continue, strategic planning and WASC will continue, shared governance should continue, research should continue, and searches will continue. If we were stripped via furlough of our administrative workload, that would suggest that that work is not essential. We don't think you would want anyone to think that administration isn't necessary!

The CFA Board of Directors has committed to a membership vote on furloughs. Faculty understand that--with or without furloughs--the CSU likely will embark on layoffs, following the CBA. Faculty on our campus have expressed to us anxiety and anger about the uncertainties of either path. Without adequate details about how furloughs will be implemented for faculty--including how work will be reduced commensurate with pay reductions and the extent to which furloughs will preserve faculty jobs--even those most at risk of layoff are skeptical of the proposal: it looks like a "blank check" for administrators.

As further steps are taken to address the budget crisis we hope you will:

- immediately engage the Academic Senate in decisions that may affect the integrity of instruction,
- immediately consult with the CFA Chapter leadership before campus decisions are made about furloughs or changes in workload,
- be a strong, vocal, and unflinching advocate for Cal Poly Pomona and the CSU.

We have been told that campus presidents will be meeting next Monday, and CFA statewide leaders urged CFA campus leaders to communicate with our campus leadership in advance of your meeting. We hope you will carry the above message to your meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gwen Urey', written in a cursive style.

Gwen Urey, CFA Chapter President
Dorothy Wills, CFA Chapter Vice President
Maureen Burton, CFA Faculty Rights Chair
Harriet Lord, Faculty Emerita, Senior Rep. for Faculty Rights
Dao Nguyen, CFA Faculty Rights Committee Member
Martin Nakashima, CFA Faculty Rights Committee Member
Maren Henderson, Faculty Emerita, CFA executive committee member