

CSU Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, July 17, 2012

Chancellor, CSU Board of Trustees, Presidents, Faculty, Staff, Students, and Guests,

Let us establish our priorities:

1. Graduation Initiative

All parties can support the Graduation Initiative <http://graduate.csuprojects.org/>

The initiative is comes down from the federal government.

This initiative can be a win-win for everyone. Why is it good for labor? Higher graduation rates can be used to justify hiring and keep the workload reasonable. It can be used to justify research projects over presidential legacy projects. It is good for students. It makes management look good. It is good for the state.

Now the part that faulty needs to get across -- it is not only a graduation initiative -- it is, more importantly, an educational initiative. The state needs more than degrees: we need a larger, better educated work force. We faculty need to keep hammering on QUALITY, but we do also need to improve QUANTITY too. It does seem possible to improve our graduation rate over the next 5-10 years without any reduction in quality or inflation in grades.

http://www.sonoma.edu/aa/grad_initiative/csu_graduation_initiative_update_september_2011.pdf

2. Better Alignment of Budget & Resource with our Primary Mission

We need to find the will and the way to get more funding to instruction. This is necessary to support the Graduation Initiative.

3. Improve Labor-Management Relations

Civil behavior is a sign of education. We must have the perspective and attitude that our problems are solvable, or, at least, that things can be improved.

Lastly, let's all dedicate ourselves to jointly improving the CSU, while retaining some perspective of our state's overall social funding. We must not fund higher education at the expense of the weak and the vulnerable – those who have no lobbies or unions and can not vote.