

Governor, BoT, Chancellor, Presidents, Faculty, Students, and Friends of CSU.

It is time to re-align the mission and budget. Let's review the basic game plan. We are ALL on the same team. Now, we do have different positions of this team.... each with its own responsibilities.

Governor Brown has worked hard to put Californians back on the road to prosperity. Higher education can help the economy grow. It is time to change how we do business – we need to focus on the big ticket items - reigning in capital debt and pension costs.

Valuable political capital is wasted making ineffective and inappropriate suggestions about faculty workload, course delivery, or research. It shows an incomplete understanding of our mission or our budget. Those changes can have a negative fiscal impact and I can provide details.

With redistricting and the November election results, we hope to see that the Legislature will be able to work together and pass the state budget in a timely manner. That would be better than attaching trailers tied to propositions giving tuition breaks or increases in exchange for votes.

The Board of Trustees should not be bypassed in the process of deciding on the tuition fees.

The Chancellor and management should encourage campuses to offer courses so that students can make timely progress on their degrees. However, the Campus Presidents need the autonomy in set their own enrollment targets and make personnel decisions. They should not have to beg the Chancellors Office for replacement faculty. Campuses and faculty must recognize that not all programs can survive at all campuses, in perpetuity.

CALSTATE RESEARCH is a wise investment. Research is vital part of the undergraduate and master's degree program. We will not be able to prepare a DIVERSE student body for R&D environments or doctoral programs if the Calstate faculty does not engage in research.

The CFA should work on pension reform and salary problems, particularly equity cases. CFA should allow merit to be rewarded.

Hopefully, under the guidance of Chancellor White, management will rely less on Executive Order.

The Calstate system was NOT designed to run most effectively by either Executive Order or legislation. We need to regain some trust -- for we are smart enough to fill in the blanks as appropriate.

Unions and management need to come to table and work together to make progress which will also include some concessions.

Chancellor White has graciously made the gesture that a new era has begun at the CSU -- thank you and good luck.

It would do students well to be aware of that they pay low tuition and have high aid in comparison to almost every other state in the nation. Federal and state student aid is here and more is in the works. The Calstate System is a great deal. So, Governor Brown, I offer no APOLOGIES for OUR TUITION FEES, only for the poor planning that made dramatic increases fall so heavily on a few. Good politics for you does not equate to good policy for the Calstate.

Governor, we appreciate your support for higher education. Allow us to do our part in helping the state achieve economic recovery and educate citizens for democracy. Let us handle the details.