



**University Council-American Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO**

**PRESS RELEASE FOR:
Thursday, March 4, 2010**

Contact: Bob Samuels, 805-680-2719

Axel Borg, 916-947-6593

Bill Quirk, 805-689-0645

(Local Contact Info Below)

**Californians Across the State Unite for Quality Education
UC Lecturers and Librarians Rally for Funding and an End to Program Cuts and Layoffs**

On Thursday, March 4 Californians will protest the devalued state of public education and demand restoration of funding and the prioritization of education in the state budget. Layoffs of lecturers, library closures, the elimination of courses and programs, forced enrollment reductions, and drastic student fee increases have galvanized an unprecedented response from students, faculty, and staff at all levels of education in California.

Throughout the UC system, lecturers and librarians will join students, faculty, and staff in actions ranging from rallies and marches to a student strike and campus shutdown at UCSC.

Over the last six months, student and worker protests at the UC have inspired a statewide education reform movement. On March 4th, there will be at least forty actions happening simultaneously in cities across the state. This statewide day of action comes on the heels of a large lobby day in Sacramento on March 1st, and several independent protests and building occupations on college campuses in recent weeks. March 5th will be the kickoff day of a multi week long march from Bakersfield to Sacramento by California school teachers who want to restore the promise of public education in our State.

Students are paying the price as teachers, essential programs, and support staff are cut. As fees increase, low and middle income students are forced to borrow more for their education. Other major universities that have drastically increased fees while attempting to increase aid, largely through loans, have seen a dramatic decline in under-represented and in-state students. In addition, the UC is currently pushing to offer more courses through summer sessions, which creates additional debt through fees and housing expenses.

Education funding has been cut by nearly \$17 billion dollars over the last two years in California. Prior to the economic downturn, California was ranked 47th in the nation in per pupil spending. The decline in quality in California's schools is not just the result of recent budget cuts, it's the result of years of misplaced priorities and underfunding.

At the University of California, cuts to the instructional mission have reached as high as 35% of academic budgets. Interestingly, the reduction in state funds to the UC represented only 4% of

UC's total budget. Many people at UC are asking why there is such a disproportionate cut to the teaching mission. According to UC-AFT Vice President of Legislation and UCD Librarian, Axel E. Borg, "The vast majority of UC's overall budget is not state money, so the cuts we are seeing here reflect the misplaced priorities of the Office of the President. We're seeing so much activism at UC because our students and workers understand that alternatives to these cuts exist."

In fact, between student fee increases, which will generate \$117 million for 09/10 and \$292 million for 10/11, and \$716 million in federal stimulus dollars in 2009, the University of California actually received as much if not more money than it would have from the state alone.

UC officials claim that most of their budget is restricted and is not available to support the instructional mission in times when state support declines. In fact, UC has in previous years shared some of its significant profits from the medical centers with the campuses. This detail belies the idea that these funds are restricted. After significant pressure on this issue, UC has begun to choose the word "earmarked" over the more legalistic "restricted" when arguing that they can't use a very small portion of their \$20 billion dollar annual budget to support the core teaching mission.

Due to the considerable murkiness of UC's budget, the State Joint Legislative Audi Committee recently voted to initiate an audit of UC's finances. State Senator Leeland Yee requested the audit after observing the Regents approving millions of dollars in bonuses for some of the highest paid UC employees, at the same time that student fees were being increased and faculty and staff furloughed or laid off.

According to UC-AFT president and UCLA lecturer Bob Samuels, "UC-AFT stands with the students and demands that the state restore full funding for the university; however, student fees should reflect the cost of undergraduate education, without the additional burden of supporting construction, administrative growth, and external research."

The UC system is arguably one of the best public universities in the world. The State of California needs to recommit to sustaining public funding for all levels of education, so California's young students will continue to have the opportunity to better themselves through excellent higher education. In addition to progressive tax reform that would close corporate loopholes increase the top 1% tax bracket, UC-AFT has endorsed the California Democracy Act as an important step toward resolving our crisis in education funding.

At the University of California, we need budgetary transparency and a reprioritization of the instructional mission through a full commitment to truly excellent and truly public higher education.

UC Berkeley

Mary Kelsey, Lecturer, cell 510-717-1283, mkelsey@berkeley.edu

Jason Schultz, Librarian, cell 404-441-8390, jm.schultz@onyxfoundation.org

Kathryn Klar, Lecturer and Local President, cell 510-407-1873, kkestrel@berkeley.edu

Katherine Lee, kathyhlee@gmail.com, cell 925-216-5697

7 AM - 12 PM: student picket lines at the borders of campus

12 PM - Rally at Bancroft and Telegraph followed by a march to the downtown Oakland for coalition rally

UC Davis

Kevin Roddy kprodny@ucdavis.edu 530-752-4541

Axel Borg aeborg@ucaft.org 916-947-6593

12-3pm-Education “Un”- Fair student led rally at the MU and Quad.

UC Merced

Paul Gibbons for UC Merced 209-722-8038, and pgibbons@ucmerced.edu

Tabling and leafleting

UC Santa Cruz

Allison Guevara- 831-239-2898

Student Strike and Campus Shut Down

6am- Picketing and media tent at campus entrance

UC Santa Barbara

Carole Paul-805-689-5316

Bill Quirk-805-689-0645

Noon-Rally at Storke Plaza

Student, faculty and staff speakers, music, video tent

4pm-Mass migration to Downtown march on State St.

UC Los Angeles

Maria Elena Cortez- 310-330-6906

Steve Steinberg, Lecturer, Writing Programs

(310) 779-0571 steinber@humnet.ucla.edu

Larry Grobel, Lecturer, English

323-851-9652 larrygrobel@sbcglobal.net

Bob Samuels- 805-680-2719 UC-AFT President and UCLA Lecturer (Laid off as of June 30, 2010)

7-11 am Picketing at: Sunset & Westwood Plaza; Akerman Turnaround; Westholme & Hilgard; Bruin Walk & Pauley Pavilion
11:30 am Student Walkout
12:00 noon Rally at Bruin Plaza
1:00 pm March through campus
3-4:00 pm Teach-In, Powell Library steps
4:30 pm Rally at Bruin Plaza with people from the public ed community
5:30 pm March through Westwood to Wilshire and back

UC Riverside

Paul Beehler, local1966_pres@att.net; cell # 714-904-2869;
Jennifer Ramos, Local 1966 VP for Organizing, ucrjennifer@gmail.com, cell # 951-205-7892;
Stephanie Kay, Local 1966 VP for Grievances, sslkay@gmail.com, cell # 909-227-2116;
Michael Yonezawa, Local 1966 unit 17 president, mmyonezawa@yahoo.com cell#951-203-1483

11am -Picket lines at Bell Tower
12pm- Teach Out begins
1pm- March around campus ending at Unity Corner
2:30- March converges at Cesar Chavez Center
3:30- Downtown Rally in front of Sweeney Art Gallery

UC Irvine

Mary Coomes - 559-433-7095
Amy De Paul (She's done great research on the budget and has an excellent student journalist blog about it) depaula@uci.edu 949 823 7838 (home, I lost my cell)
Peg Hesketh, UC-AFT Vice President Cell: 714 928-6474. phesketh@pacbell.net
Keith Danner 951 285 2309 kdanner@uci.edu

Noon -Rally-Flagpole Area next to the Aldrich Administration Building

UC-AFT members in blue t-shirts

5:00pm Discussion Panel, UC-Irvine: Location TBA

UC-AFT panelists: Mitchell Brown, Librarian, and Peg Hesketh, Lecturer.

Community Rally sponsored by CFT – 4:00- 6:00, Fairview Ave in front of Costa Mesa High School and Orange Coast College. Wear BLUE to show your support for quality education.

UC San Diego

Ryan Jordan - 949-212-9997
Fred Lonidier - 858-245-6678

ALL DAY: OPEN UNIVERSITY TEACH-OUT. We are asking professors and TAs to teach their classes/sections outside.

11:00 am - press conference (w/panel of Workers, Staff, Undergrad, Grads and Faculty). Ryan Jordan, Vice-President UC-AFT and Lecturer in History will be on the panel). Location TBA.

11:30 am - meet in front of of the Gilman Dr. parking Structure (corner of Villa La Jolla Dr.) and march on over to Library Walk.

12:00 - 1:30 pm - rally in front of Geisel Library (Silent Tree) on Library Walk (there will be lots of speakers and performers, more details to follow). Bill Weeks (Lect.History) and I (Maria) have signed up to speak.

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Gather at Park Blvd & Presidents Way

3:30 pm - 4:15pm March to Governors Office (on Front Street). The walk is about 1.2 long (approx. 35 minutes)

4:15 pm - 5:30 pm Demonstration in front of the Governors Office.

for more info go to <http://ucsdcoalitionforeducationaljustice.wordpress.com>

UC-AFT represents lecturers and librarians throughout the UC system.

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