

# CoFO

COUNCIL OF FACULTY ORGANIZATIONS

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**ASCCC**

Academic Senate for  
California Community  
Colleges  
Dolores Davison, President



**CCCI**

California Community  
College Independents  
Jeffrey Michels, President



**CCA/CTA**

Community College  
Association/California  
Teachers Association  
Eric Kaljumagi, President



**CCC/CFT**

Community College  
Council / California  
Federation of Teachers  
Jim Mahler, President



**FACCC**

Faculty Association of  
California Community  
Colleges  
Wendy Brill-Wynkoop,  
President

February 23, 2022

Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair  
Senate Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 8630  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Phil Ting, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **Re: January Budget Proposal**

The Council of Faculty Organizations (CoFO), representing the more than 58,000 faculty in the California Community College (CCC) system, appreciates your ongoing support for California's Community Colleges and your recognition of the value our faculty provide to our students. We have come together to share the priorities of the faculty and make recommendations to the Governor's 2022 - 23 budget proposal.

### **Part-Time Faculty Support**

We are grateful for the proposed \$200 million to part-time faculty healthcare. While community colleges have come to rely more heavily on part-time faculty to provide instruction and student support, investments in healthcare and other support for this contingent workforce have lagged significantly. We urge the Legislature to approve the proposed \$200 million increase in funding for the Part-time Faculty Health Insurance Program as well as include the necessary changes to the Program to ensure more part-time faculty have access to quality affordable healthcare.

### **Funding Formula**

CoFO understands why the Governor believes further revisions to the funding formula are necessary. The funding formula has created a system that rewards or penalizes colleges for reasons they can only partially control. After five years of seeing the impact of the formula in our classrooms without adequate statewide data demonstrating its effectiveness, we believe that the formula is of little benefit to students. The most successful aspect of the formula is the hold-harmless provision, which has provided stability during the pandemic. Nearly 90-percent of all districts are currently in hold-harmless. While the Governor's proposal is an improvement to the current formula, we recommend adding an ongoing cumulative COLA to the proposed funding floor that would begin in 2025-26. Furthermore, we encourage the legislature to provide more base funding, eliminate performance-based funding in the formula, and mandate data collection to evaluate the formula.

### **Cost-of-Living Adjustment**

We appreciate the proposed 5.3 percent cost of living adjustment; however, rising inflation and the lack of a funded COLA in previous budget years justify an increase

to this amount. To maintain buying power, we recommend increasing the 5.3% proposed COLA and applying the COLA to the ongoing faculty funding.

### **Transfer**

We appreciate the governor's effort to increase seats at California's public universities and ensure that last year's transfer initiative, AB 928 (Berman), is fully funded; however, we need to ensure there are enough available spots for the significant increase in transfer students that are likely to occur over the next several years. We recommend dedicating at least 50 percent of new UC and CSU seats to community college transfers. Unless there is room for community college students to transfer to institutions that they actually wish to attend, any efforts to reform the transfer process are moot.

### **Enrollment and Student Services**

We recognize that the 2021-22 budget included \$120 million one-time Prop 98 funding for community colleges to address student enrollment and retention and we support the Governor's proposal to provide an additional \$150 million one-time Prop 98 funding to continue these efforts. As our colleges confront recent enrollment drops, it is also imperative that student service categoricals promoting equity be fully funded. We commend the Governor for the \$1.1 million proposal to expand African American Male Education Network and Development (A2MEND) student charters, and request an additional \$25.7 million to increase the MESA (Math, Engineering, Science, Achievement) programs to all 116 colleges and \$30 million in one-time funding over five years for the creation a Native American Student Support and Success Program at 20 colleges. These programs support students from diverse backgrounds to ensure they stay enrolled and meet their educational goals.

We look forward to the coming year with renewed optimism and are excited to continue the work of supporting our students. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to the faculty and the students we serve.

Respectfully,



Dolores Davison, President  
Academic Senate for California Community Colleges



Jeffrey Michels, President  
California Community College Independents



Eric Kaljumägi, President  
Community College Association/California Teachers Association



Jim Mahler, President  
Community College Council/California Federation of Teachers



Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, President  
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges