

## 2018 CSU Advocacy Day – Potential Questions

### Budget

#### **Does the state have the necessary resources to fully fund the CSU's Operating Budget Request?**

Yes, the Governor projected a three-year revenue increase of \$4.7 billion in his budget proposal. Additionally, the Governor deposited \$5 billion into the state's Rainy Day Fund. The LAO estimates a \$7.5 billion dollar surplus of discretionary funds to use on any legislative priority.

#### **Why does the Governor maintain he is proposing a 3% increase for the CSU and the CSU says only a 1.4% increase? What is the difference?**

The CSU's Operating Budget is made up of two sources – the state general fund appropriation and tuition and fees. The Governor is referring to an increase of only the state General Fund, which is roughly half of the CSU operating budget.

#### **With a proposed increase in state funding, why is the CSU discussing a potential tuition increase and cuts to campus budgets?**

The Governor's budget proposal of \$92 million creates a CSU budget gap of between \$61 million and \$171 million, necessitating the CSU to discuss all funding options. The trustees' Operating Budget Request prioritizes investments in faculty and staff compensation, Graduation Initiative 2025, new student access and critical facility repairs.

#### **The Governor says the state has invested \$1.6 billion in the CSU since the economic recovery began. Is that accurate?**

No. The CSU maintains that the state has invested \$907 million in the university since the economic recovery began, nearly equal to what had been cut from the CSU budget during the recession. This amount is the total of all unallocated funds provided to the CSU to invest in students, faculty and staff. Notably, over this timeframe, the CSU has increased enrollment, at the request of the Legislature, by more than 36,500 students, equivalent to the enrollment at CSU San Bernardino and CSU Chico.

The Governor's figure includes many items that did not actually increase the amount of funding available to invest in the institution, such as the \$250 million cut that the CSU avoided with the passage of Proposition 30.

#### **One of my members wants to submit a general fund budget request for an earmark for my campus. How should I respond?**

In the situation this request should arise in any of your meetings, presidents and leg liaisons should thank the member for their interest in their campus but inform them that they defer to the system office when it comes to budget requests and offer to connect them with the Office of Advocacy and State Relations. Presidents and leg liaisons should stress the importance of having their members support the trustees' full Operating Budget Request.

## **Tuition Proposal**

### **Has the CSU acted to adopt a tuition increase? When will this decision be made?**

The CSU Board of Trustees has not adopted a tuition increase. They heard the tuition increase proposal as an information item at their January meeting.

### **Is a tuition increase inevitable?**

No, the CSU Board of Trustees have only heard the tuition fee proposal as an information item at their January meeting. The information item provided background about revenues and expenditures, along with the proposal. No decision will be made about this proposal until a later board meeting.

### **How is financial aid impacted?**

Grant aid will cover any increase in tuition for the majority of undergraduate students. Specifically, 62 percent of undergraduates have their tuition fully covered by a Cal Grant, State University Grant or waiver. Additionally, 80 percent of all students receive some form of financial aid.

## **Graduation Initiative 2025**

### **What type of progress has the CSU system made?**

Launched in January 2016, the CSU's Graduation Initiative 2025 is already showing promising results and completion rates are now at all-time highs in all categories, and we continue to make progress. Today, the median degree for first-time freshman is 4.7 years, consistent with the national average.

In the 2016-17 academic year, 99,000 undergraduate students earned their degree – a record high for the CSU with nearly 7,000 additional students graduating compared to the previous year.

Our Graduation Initiative 2025 targets for completion and equity will make the CSU the national flagship of public comprehensive universities.

### **What did the CSU do with last year's \$75 million in ongoing funds? Why does the CSU require an additional investment of \$75 million?**

Last year's \$75 million ongoing investment was utilized to hire 400 net new faculty to teach an additional 3,200 course sections, hire an additional 228 academic advisors and for campus-specific student and academic support. For 2018-19, an additional \$75 million will be invested as the second year of a six-year plan totaling \$450 million. Further investments will be made in

additional course sections, hiring tenure-track faculty and advisors, and academic and student support services.

## **Compensation**

### **Has the CSU provided employee compensation increases for its employees?**

The CSU reached multiyear agreements with faculty (2016) and staff (2017) bargaining unions that will last to 2020. After years of stagnant wages, these agreements provided our employees with well-deserved raises that equate to, on average, 3 percent per year. These investments recognize that employees are critical to CSU's ability to provide students with opportunities to obtain a high-quality university education.

### **What compensation increases have state employees recently received?**

Numerous collective bargaining agreements have been ratified that provided general salary increases from 3%-5% for several years. For instance, nine units of SEIU 1000 employees, including unit 3 professional educators and librarians, will receive 4% in 2017, 4% in 2018 and 3.5% in 2019.

## **Admissions/Impaction**

### **What is impaction?**

Impaction is an enrollment tool of last resort and really is a means of distributing a scarce resource – i.e. When a CSU campus receives more applications from applicants who meet minimum CSU eligibility than they have resources to support, “impaction” are the requirements by which the campus selects students to admit from the pool of eligible students. The root issue is that CSU campuses don't have sufficient resources to meet the demand from all CSU-eligible students.

### **Why are eligible students denied admission?**

In order to manage enrollment within current budget constraints while preserving the highest quality academic experience and services to students, impacted campuses give priority admission consideration to first-time undergraduate and transfer applicants who have attended schools located within a closely-defined local geographic area. Non-local applicants are required to meet supplementary criteria. Students are encouraged to apply to their local CSU. The CSU will update the local admissions policy later this year.