

Fee Hike Resistance

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Stop the Fee Hikes!

by Doug

When a professor at California State University Stanislaus asks a class, "How many people here work?," almost everyone raises their hands, with mine included. Students attending CSU Stanislaus often not only have to deal with school, but also work part or full time, deal with commuting and traffic, and often have families. CSU Stanislaus has a high population of blue-collar working students and this is reflected by the high percentage of students that go to school here for degrees in teaching or nursing. But while many of us hope that we will be able to balance work, school, and a family all at once, we are also facing a continued attack on our wallets as the CSU Board of Trustees have launched an ongoing plan to raise our student fees - and give themselves bigger raises.

Since the 2001 school year, the CSU system (and the UC system) has continuously raised student fees on campus (see facts on right hand side). All the while the costs of gas, transportation, housing, and food has also all gone up. The CSU executives also have managed to continuously give themselves more and more raises - all the while continuing to suck us dry. The continued rising fees will only make it increasingly impossible for regular folks to attend CSU or any other college. Unlike the faculty, who won their recent strike against the CSU system, students have made no attempt fight back against the continuing fee hikes. The student newspaper won't cover the issue, the 'student government' won't address the problem, and our costs continue to mount. This publication is here to hopefully end that. Together, linked by our common disgust for the fee hikes and the actions of the Board of Trustees, students at CSU Stanislaus can hopefully turn that rage into action.

***Fee Hike Resistance* is a publication put out by students and community members against the current wave of fee hikes handed down by the CSU Board of Trustees. Email the editors at: stopfeehikes@yahoo.com.**

FEE HIKE FACTS:

- In March of 2007, students at both CSU and UC campuses faced their fifth fee hike in six years.
- On top of a huge salary, CSU executives have given themselves on average a raise of up to 23% each year.
- Since 2002, student fees have been raised by 76% for undergraduates and 106% for graduate students.
- The CSU Administration plans to raise student fees up to 10% annually until the fiscal year 2010-2011.
- The national average increase for tuition is 6.6 percent. The national inflation rate is only 1.96 percent.
- In 2007, CSU Board of Trustees chair-woman Roberta Achtenberg signaled her intent to raise the executive salaries about 46 percent over the next four years.



CSU fee increases may drive students away from system

*From the Spartan Daily, CSU San Jose
November 1st, 2005*

The California State University Board of Trustees slapped students in their faces Thursday when the board not only voted to increase fees, but also increased the salaries of 26 CSU officials.

The extra funds were meant to increase the salaries of the CSU system's employees so the colleges will have more leverage in hiring more qualified faculty and staff members, according to an article published Friday in the Monterey County Herald.

The board did just that during the Thursday meeting, giving raises to CSU Chancellor Charles Reed and 23 campus presidents after increasing undergraduate fees by 8 percent and graduate fees by 10 percent.

The idea that the CSU system needs to stay competitive with salaries is a noble one, but asking the students to pick up the bill is asking too much. This should be a state issue, and the state should show it cares for its educational system by putting more funds into it.

According to the San Jose Mercury News, this is the fifth straight year CSU fees have been increased. It seems as though every time the CSUs need more money to improve the system's quality, they force the students to pay. This once again demonstrates to us that the state does not want to invest in its higher education.

Though the CSU system does have relatively low fees compared to other state university systems' in-state tuitions, this should be seen as an advantage for keeping California residents in California for their high education programs. This should never be used as an excuse for the system's administration to raise the fees and force more money out of the students.

Only one trustee voted against the fee increase. Corey Jackson, a student trustee from CSU San Bernardino who also represents San Jose State University and other campuses, stood alone in opposition to the fee hike. He told the Spartan Daily that the CSUs should look to all California citizens to make the system better, not just the students.

This is a correct assertion because, even if many of the citizens paying for higher education do not actually attend college at any of the campuses, the universities bring prestige, tax dollars and a sense of community to many neighborhoods and cities throughout the state. Students will still buy food and items in the area and attend local events, so they still help the economies of the surrounding communities. If the CSUs keep relying on students to pay the bills, students start leaving.

Text from the 'Stop the CSU Student Fee Increase' Petition

To: California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees and Chancellor Reed

We, the undersigned, oppose the 10% student fee increase that you are proposing to offset the CSU budget deficit.

Over the past several years, student fees at the California State University system across the state have skyrocketed. In fact, since 2002, student fees have been raised by 76% for undergraduate and 106% for graduate students. In addition to these increases, students have also faced the burden of varying fee increases within their respective campuses.

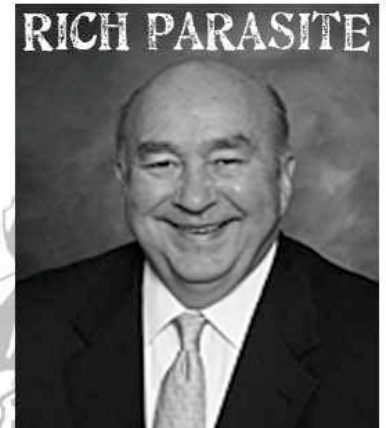
The CSU Administration plans to raise student fees up to 10% annually until the fiscal year 2010/11. This plan has negatively impacted California State University students. We are faced with overcrowded classrooms, decreased class section offerings, postponed graduation dates, lack of access due to financial burdens, and a faculty with low morale because of the actions of the CSU Board of Trustees. The only improvements we have seen are the salary increases and excessive compensation to the top CSU executives. This is unacceptable.

As the governing body that manages the California State University system, we urge you to work with the California State Legislature and Governor to allocate additional funding to cover the current deficit.

Sign online at: petitiononline.com/nofees/petition.html

Swarm Reed's Office with Calls & Emails!

Keep the pressure on Chancellor Charles B. Reed. Call his office and keep sending him emails. The more pressure we can put on the bosses of the CSU system, the more we can show them that they can't continue to raise fees and continue to give themselves big raises.



Charles B. Reed. Chancellor of the CSU system.

Reed's Phone: (562) 951-4700
Reed's Email: creed@calstate.edu

Higher Learning, Higher Resistance

NEWS OF STUDENT AND FACULTY ACTION

Canadian Students Occupy Stock Exchange in Protest of Tuition Hike

From news.infoshop.org

On Friday, November 16th, 150 students and supporters occupied the Montreal Stock Exchange at 8am for approximately an hour. An estimated 60,000 students from various universities and cegeps were on strike this past week in order to protest the lifting of the tuition freeze in Quebec, which has been in place for 13 years. Tuition is expected to rise 500\$ over the next 5 years.

L'Association pour une Solidarité Syndicale Étudiante (ASSÉ), representing over 40,000 students from different student unions, organized the surprise action on Friday. Students successfully occupied the ground floor of the Stock Exchange, blocking the doors and elevators with overturned furniture and potted plants from around the building. They refused to allow any employees to enter any area of the building beyond the lobby. Police showed up minutes into the occupation and stationed themselves at all entrances, but did not enter the building. The cops patiently awaited the riot squad (whose response time was unusually slow, likely due to exhaustion from student riots which had occurred the three previous nights), and then held the doors open(?) for the protesters who left around 9am, chanting "la police au service des riches et des fascistes".

The demo then took to the streets, chanting and marched to a nearby cegep where a riot had taken place on Tuesday when 102 people had been arrested. They proceeded to re-occupy the building and reinforce the barricades around the school.



Students and Community Members Occupy Space at UC Santa Cruz in Opposition to Fee Hikes, Corporate Takeover, and Development Plans

From www.indybay.org/santacruz

At the site of the proposed Biomedical Sciences Facility, the first construction project of the new Long Range Development Plan a student occupation is now in place. Support is needed, to keep tree-sitters safe and to occupy the autonomous-zone that has been established beneath the trees with festivities, discussions, classes, and creative spontaneity. All are welcome to visit and stay at the site, which will be occupied 24-hours, every day.

THIS IS NOT ONLY ABOUT THE FOREST!

People oppose the current LRDP for many well-founded reasons, and the destruction of the forest in upper campus is one of them. Other popular opposition to the LRDP is concerned with the corporate takeover of the University (privatization), academic priorities, the economics of poor planning, the undemocratic nature of the UC, the dangers of biotech and nanotechnology, animal experimentation, and the list goes on. Some of those at the occupation are simply inspired by the sense of community and togetherness that can be felt around the tree-sit. Everyone who is involved in the tree-sit is there to stand for what they believe in, and to discuss these critical matters with anyone who cares to engage.

To learn more, please visit:

<http://lrddesistance.org/>

A STORY-LINE of November 7th:

At around 1:00am on Wednesday morning, a dozen people began hoisting platforms into redwood trees at the proposed site of a new Biomedical Sciences Facility. This facility is the first scheduled construction project under UCSC's new Long Range Development Plan, which threatens to add 4,500 students to campus and destroy 120 acres of forest in the upper campus.

One platform was secured into the trees and another was about to go up when a police car arrived. An hour later, police had surrounded the area. One person was arrested, charged with trespassing and "mutilation of a tree." Five people were able to stay perched high in the trees, after

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somehow managing to raise a second platform and scramble up to safety while a police officer was present. The police taunted the sitters, telling them that what they were doing was "so dangerous," while refusing them any supplies. The tree-sitters, separated from each other in three different clusters of redwoods, spent a long, cold night and morning with no food and very little water. One tree-sitter, whose platform was confiscated by the police, sat on tree branches all night wearing only a t-shirt and his harness.

The police surrounded the parking lot with caution tape as students, faculty and staff began arriving on campus. At 10:30am a press conference was held outside the police lines to explain to the gathering crowd why there were people sitting in the trees.

At 11am, a rally to oppose the LRDP began at the Bay Tree Plaza, as planned. Hundreds of people arrived to listen to speakers talk about the many, many reasons why they are opposed to the LRDP. The crowd was energetic; most people had heard about the tree-sit and were excited to show their support. A little before noon, the crowd got worried when they saw a cherry-picker heading up the road. One of the speakers got up and told the crowd that the tree-sitters needed support and were without food and water, and, without further ado, the rally turned into a march to deliver supplies to the tree-sitters.

With great excitement, around 400 people filled the streets, turning cars around and stopping buses in their place. The sitters, who had been in the redwoods for about eight hours at that point, could hear the clanging and banging of Trash Orchestra as the crowd grew closer. The cops, surrounded by plastic orange fencing, formed a perimeter around the trees. They were armed with pepper spray, tasers and tear-gas guns.

"We need to get food, water and blankets up to our friends" went out the call. And within minutes, tons of supplies appeared. Students went to their houses or took snacks out of dining halls, bringing back as much food as they could carry. People found water wherever they could, and in some cases donated their personal water bottles. Blankets and sleeping bags appeared and people took the sweaters off their own backs to send up into the trees. Now they just had to get the supplies past the police line.

Supporters encircled the area, looking for the best way to get to the trees. People started pushing in closer and cops responded with pepper spray and batons. Our friends were cold and hungry, and we were not about to back down and allow the cops to starve them out.

The police continued to pepper spray the crowd, and began to strike out with batons and violently tackle and arrest people who ran forward in attempts to send up supplies. At least one person was de-arrested by people in the crowd. A total of five people were arrested in this confrontation, and many more were hurt as pepper spray filled their lungs and their eyes. But this time protesters weren't the only ones taking a beating. One cop was accidentally pepper-sprayed in the face by another cop, and another cop was punched in the face. The protesters didn't fall back as the police pushed in, they fought back.

The protesters managed to push the police line back, surrounding the central cluster of redwood trees. As the first bit of food - a small plastic bag of trail mix - was sent up the line, everyone cheered victoriously. Supporters rushed to tie food, water and sleeping bags to the lines as fast as they could. People donated bags and backpacks to carry the supplies up in.

With excitement and momentum, the crowd continued to push the police line back. Finally, overwhelmed with the number of people who were steadfastly determined to hold their ground, the police retreated to a nearby corner. A third platform soon appeared out of nowhere and was hoisted into the trees to the tune of a cheering crowd. Eventually the police had entirely vacated the area, and we began filling it with food, laughter and music. Below the trees is an autonomous zone: a space for people to interact freely, to share their knowledge and to strategize about how to create a better world. Workshops are being planned, classes will be held there and there will be discussions and creative projects of all kinds.

More info at: lrdpresistance.org

UC Santa Barbra Students Kick Out CIA

From news.infoshop.org

A routine CIA information and recruitment session was suddenly disrupted on the campus of the University of California in Santa Barbara in November when a small group of student protestors walked in and lead a man with bound hands to the front of the room, where he was laid on a table and (voluntarily) tortured with a CIA-approved technique used to simulate drowning, known as water-boarding. The CIA speakers were struggling to speak over the "torture victim's" coughs and cries for help, while potential CIA recruits looked on with bewilderment at the grotesquely real portrayal of torture.

As the torture victim screamed in terror, a large group of students stormed the room. Protestors untied the bound man and pushed his torturers aside to chants of 'NO TORTURE AT UCSB!' and 'CIA, GO AWAY!'. One of the protestors even took advantage of a CIA operative's vacant chair at the head of the room to begin a new, and interactive, information session with the crowd to discuss the true history of the CIA and why they must be resisted. Meanwhile, students mingled with the potential recruits to discuss the truth of the organization, and other options for those who had attended the meeting. People got on tables, chairs were overturned, and the projector screen was rolled up. The CIA agents soon left.

Fresno Community College Students Resist Censorship

From www.indybay.org/centralvalley

Students at Fresno City College (FCC) distributed flyers, displayed artwork, and held banners near a campus water fountain in November. All of these activities were done without the permission of the campus administration and therefore were in violation of FCC rules that regulate free speech. According to Sarah Reuter, one of the event organizers, the rules regulating free speech at FCC are arbitrary and sometimes based on the moral and religious beliefs of school administrators.

The Free Speech Collective, who organized the event, also takes issue with the FCC policy of requiring groups to wait 10 days while the administration considers the approval of flyers. Reuter said "we don't believe it should take 10 days and 3 signatures for an event to be approved. Also, all events should be approved."

