
Pomona Chapter Chatter

- ◆ CPP Faculty for School Board (pg 2)
- ◆ Is your pension safe? (pg 2)
- ◆ President's Perspective (pg 2)
- ◆ Welcome Lecturers (pg 3)
- ◆ Membership (pg 4)
- ◆ In Memory of Saul Landau (pg 5)

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(Chapter Secretary)

DD Wills
(Chapter President)

Bargaining Meeting!

Oct. 3rd – 11:30-1:30 pm
KW Dining Room

Dear Reader: We invite you to peruse our new quarterly ENewsletter, the *Pomona Chapter Chatter*. We are calling it “chatter” because we know you have a lot to read, so this will not be a heavy tome. We will give you the major CFA Statewide, local news, and events. Also, this ENewsletter will allow your colleagues here at Cal Poly Pomona on the Executive Board to communicate with you on union activities.

This can also be a forum to let others interested in union activities to hear from you! If you want to send us your news items, questions, concerns, or suggestions, that will be very welcome. Send them to the co-editor (nrvonglahn@csupomona.edu), and we will publish them (if you wish) with our reply (if called for) in the next quarter's edition.

Best,

Nicholas Von Glahn
Psychology and Sociology

CFA Endorses Its Own!

The local chapter of the CFA endorsed Walnut School Board candidate Sean Monemi, and Azusa School Board candidate Paul Naccachian. Paul has phone banking every Saturday and Sunday 12 noon until 4pm with more info at <http://www.electpaulnow.com/>. Sean is starting phone banking soon and can be reached at his webpage at www.seanmonemi.com.

Is your pension safe?

By
P. O. D'Ici

The short answer is Not Really. Our pension is determined by state law, not by contract negotiation. We currently have a "defined benefit" pension, which means when we retire we receive a fixed percentage (based on years of service) of an average value of our base salary before retirement. There is continuing pressure to change the law so that our pensions are "defined contribution", which will result in our pensions behaving more like a TSA, with no guarantee of the amount we receive once we retire.

The recent changes to California's pension law modified both the pension benefit, and the individual contribution for new employees. It does not apply to those who were current employees at the time.

<http://www.calpers.ca.gov/index.jsp?bc=/member/retirement/pension-reform-impacts.xml&pst=ACT&pca=ST>

The cities of San Diego and San José have attempted to change their pension rules not only for new employees but also for current employees. These two cases are now going through the courts.

<http://www.californiahealthline.org/articles/2013/9/24/officials-across-us-await-decision-in-san-jose-pension-reform-case>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/07/us/politics/san-diego-and-san-jose-pass-pension-cuts.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

We may be facing a referendum in the November 2014 election that will substantially change retirement benefits for current employees by, among other things, changing California's constitution. (See **Slash and Burn: The War Against California Pensions** at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/03/california-pension-war_n_3862157.html and <http://www.city-journal.org/2013/cjc0717sg.html>

President's Perspective

We faculty (and librarians, counselors, and coaches) need and want a lot of things. A decent, middle-class standard of living for all of us. Some amount of job security. Health care, a pension, a reasonable workload, and the right to have a lot of say in defining that work. We want the freedom and authority to make the major decisions germane to our courses, our disciplines and departments, student instruction, our research and scholarly or creative product, and the standards and procedures of the academy in general, as has been the tradition in universities for a thousand years or so. We want to know students' opinions of our teaching and advising, but we don't want their evaluations to rule our destiny. We want to know administrators' ideas and plans for the direction of the university, but we want the opportunity to share in shaping them. We expect to have a long, fulfilling career at Cal Poly Pomona, and want to have recourse to sensible options if we run into

trouble. And, of course, we want the quality of higher education at the CSU to be untarnished by over-large classes, outsourcing to private providers, too many MOOCs, too much standardization and centralized control, or too many courses taught by underpaid, over-worked adjunct faculty.

We don't have these things in full measure right now, and have not for a long time. Am I deluded in thinking we should continue to press for them? Our demands have fallen like rain upon stone during the past ten or more years. The administration could always use the bad budget as an excuse to ignore us. They are still doing that; in fact, conversations with local administrators often turn from discussion of lousy, unfair faculty pay to how underpaid they think they are! We must not continue to take "No" for an answer.

Bargaining is coming up this year for a new contract. We need our union to be stronger than ever. Let this be the year you speak up for yourself and stand up for faculty rights!

D. D. Wills, Pomona Chapter President

Welcome to New and Returning Lecturers

by
Bonnie Thorne

We have a number of events scheduled this quarter. These events are open to all lecturers whether CFA members or not. If you are not a CFA member, please consider joining. One of the many advantages of CFA membership is that you will be able to vote on the contract. CFA is currently engaged in bargaining a new contract as our current contract expires in June, 2014.

Upcoming Lecturer Events:

1. Lecturer Nuts and Bolts

Tues. Oct. 15 4:00 - 5:30 or Wed. Oct. 16 3:00 - 4:30

Faculty Center Room 1-228

Whether you are a new or returning lecturer, if you would like to learn more about issues that concern lecturers, please attend. Some of the topics covered will include one- and three-year appointments, health benefits, unemployment benefits, and grievances.

The same presentation will be given each day to accommodate different schedules.

Please respond to Jackie Teepen jteepen@calfac.org if you plan to attend.

2. Lecturer Lunches

Tues. Oct. 29 or Wed. Oct. 30 11:30 - 1:00 at Kellogg West.

The quarterly lunches are being held in conjunction with Campus Equity Week which focuses on equity issues including drawing attention to the working conditions of contingent faculty, the problem of high student debt, and race and gender inequities in student access to higher education.

This is an opportunity to learn more about current lecturer issues, to meet other lecturer faculty and to enjoy a good lunch.

Please respond to Jackie Teepen jteepen@calfac.org if you plan to attend.

3. Lecturer Open Houses

Tues. Nov. 12 and Wed. Nov. 13 from 3:00 - 6:00 in 1-223

Drop in any time during these hours with questions or just to meet your lecturer representatives and other CFA board members.

If you have questions or concerns please contact either lecturer representative: Päivi Hoikkala phoikkala@csupomona.edu or Bonnie Thorne bthorne@csupomona.edu. Contact Bonnie if you have questions regarding faculty rights. We also have office hours in the CFA office 1-223 every Wednesday from 1:00 - 3:00.

Membership

by
Gwen Urey

As of June 2013, **59** percent of Unit 3 personnel with a non-zero time base at Cal Poly Pomona were members of CFA. This is a decline from November 2011 (59%) or November 2010 (61%). A 2012-13 membership drive added dozens of members, but retirements (full professors)—concentrated among the groups with the highest membership rates—eroded the gains.

Lecturers' membership rates climbed from March to April and again from April to June. Rates for most other unit 3 groups also crept up. Lecturers have by far the lowest membership rates.

However, if we look at membership rates among groups that include part-timers, we see that time base makes a difference.

Figure 2 shows membership rates for two distinct groups of lecturers: those at or above .4 time, the threshold to receive benefits, and those below. The membership rate for the group with .4 or higher time base is 54 percent, compared to 21 percent for lecturers with a lower time base.

High membership rates are essential to a strong union. The university's hiring practices rely increasingly on lecturers instead of tenure-track faculty. There are many negative consequences of such practices—uncertain employment for lecturers themselves, greater administrative workloads for tenure track faculty, fewer faculty advisors for students. In the face of these practices, it is both more challenging than ever and more important than ever to boost the CFA's membership rates. Membership is seen by the CSU and external constituents as the most fundamental indicator of the union's strength.

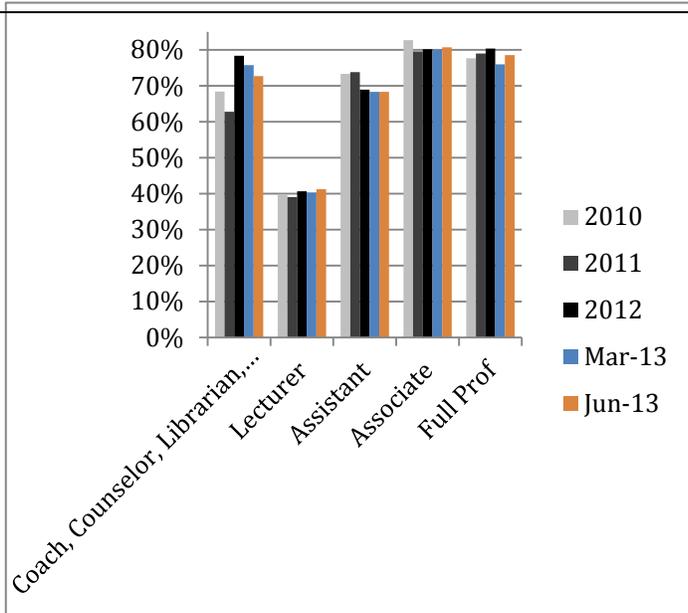


Figure 1: Membership by Rank

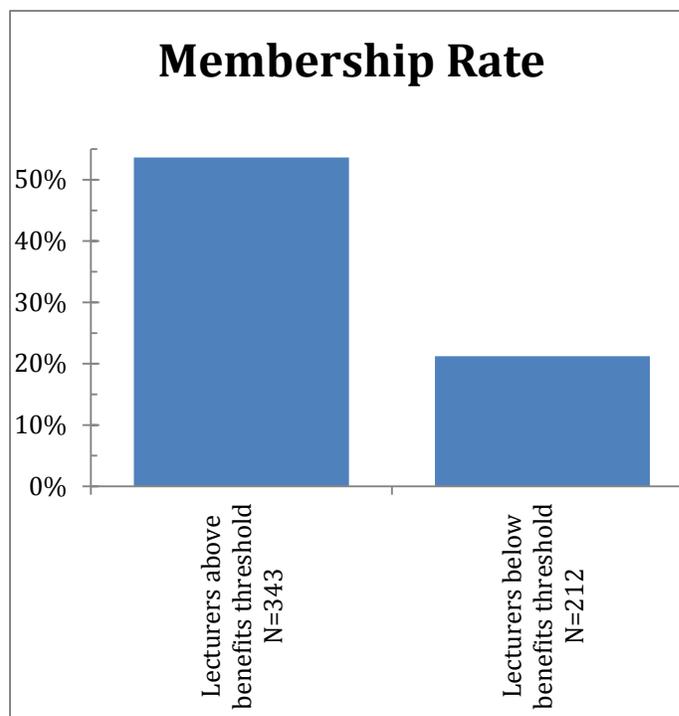


Figure 2: Lecture Membership Rates with and without Benefits

At the bargaining table we need this strength to win anything, and to resist takebacks. If you are a member—thank you! If not, please consider joining now as the CFA gets ready to bargain our next contract.

In Memory of Saul Landau

by
José M. Vadi

Saul Landau will never die in my heart and in my memory. Many knew him as an award-winning journalist and activist, filmmaker, and radio personality. But I knew him as just “Saul” or “Saaool” if you are pronouncing his name in Spanish. I remember him as a person who always tried to stay positive with jokes, some silly but very human. He once told me that he never expected to live past fifty and so he viewed every day as a gift. He gave more than he took and some took advantage of that. Hence one of his favorite sayings was “No good deed goes unpunished!” He took quite hard the passing of some of his friends like John Ross, Gore Vidal, and Christopher Hitchens (who puzzled him) and the many other friends that were departing this earth. And now it is my time to express that same regret that he and I talked about, with him as the subject of my lament.

Saul knew a seemingly endless number of people and he would regale me with stories about them. I remember him telling me about meeting Jean Paul Sartre and how this small man created very little impression in him. He remembered the times he had to carry C. Wright Mills when he had a bit too much to drink. That must have been quite a sight, small Saul lugging around that big Texan! He recounted the Chitlin-eating contest he once had with Stokely Carmichael; what he knew about the ways Black Panther leaders got into Cuba; his adventures riding all over Cuba in a jeep with Fidel for an entire week; the T.V.-viewing habits of Cuban *comandantes*; his experiences with a young Dr. Bachelet of Chile, while she was still an unknown figure, never thinking that she would one day be Chile’s president.

Saul would tell me about his youth in the Bronx and I would tell him about growing up in Harlem. He told me about dice games in back alleys as a kid in the Bronx and how he hitchhiked cross country alone as a fifteen year old over the objection of his father. We talked about

his years at the prestigious Stuyvesant High School and how he once had wanted to be a medical doctor. Since we both went to the University of Wisconsin at Madison, we exchanged notes on the University where he majored in history and supported himself as a cook. Saul was also a cab driver in San Francisco. Those of you who knew him well will now understand why he knew the streets of San Francisco like the back of his hand and why he was so fearless, shall we say, behind the wheel.

The Saul that I knew never lost the playfulness of youth and he often told me that he had to stop embarrassing himself and that he had to learn how to act his age. I called him “el Gitano” or “the gypsy” because one week he’d be in Chile, the other week in Cuba, and the following week in Syria. He always told me that I should not let money prevent me from doing whatever I wanted to do and he never let money be such an obstacle. Money was to be used and not to be hoarded and it was no substitute for brains or conviction. He was not ambitious financially.

Saul was more of an anarchist than most knew. He was the antithesis of the organization man and he marched to his own inner drummer. He resisted being tied down by bureaucracy and stifling rules and regulations. He perceived bureaucrats as not very creative. His essential spirit was that of an artist. As such, he would encourage students of digital media to visit art museums and to study the paintings of the great masters to learn how to film. He appreciated art and artists in film, writing, plastic arts, and in the stage. He loved young people of talent and he was very liberal in his use of the term “brilliant” to describe some of them who were his assistants while he worked here at Cal Poly.

Saul believed in “learning by doing.” You learn about film by making films, you learn to write by writing, and you learn about Cuba by going to Cuba. That is why we started the first program in the CSU that took students to Cuba to study its history, politics, and culture. This learning by doing paralleled his experience because, although he won an Emmy Award and

the George Polk Award, he had no formal education in the fields of film-making or journalism. He learned by doing and he thought that practical experience was the best teacher.

Saul could be quirky and his quiriness carried over into his culinary tastes. He loved Chinese dumplings, Chilean erizos (sea urchins), hamachi kama (grilled jaw of the yellow fin tuna), and every conceivable hot sauce. He would enter chili-eating contests at restaurants to see who could withstand the hottest, eye-watering hot peppers available. He lived large and he loved life.

But most important, Saul was all about conviction and fighting hypocrisy and unfairness. He viewed U.S. policy on terrorists and terrorism as hypocritical; the blockade against Cuba and U.S. Cuba policy (if we can call it such) as an unfair assault on Cuba for its defiant disobedience vis-à-vis the U.S. And he continued to speak out on these matters, and others, despite threats and physical assaults. He once described to me how, at a pro-Cuba rally, he felt his shirt back dripping-wet, only to discover that he had been cut with a razor blade from his neck to below his buttocks and that his clothing was soaked in his own blood. This only encouraged him to keep opposing those policies that were unfair and, at times, even criminal.

Saul Landau stood up and fought courageously against terrorists of all stripes, Pinochet, the military dictator who usurped power in Chile for seventeen years starting in 1973. I recall him calling me late one night asking me to translate a legal deposition of Manuel Contreras, head of the dreaded Chilean intelligence unit known as the DINA. This translation was forwarded to Spanish legal authorities and was used in the House of Lords proceedings against Pinochet who was later detained in the United Kingdom based, in part, on Contreras' statement in the deposition that everything he ever did was done under the orders of the highest authority in Chile (i.e., Pinochet). This was Saul's payback to the DINA and Pinochet for their central role in the assassination of his friend and colleague, former Chilean U.S. ambassador Orlando Letelier, in

Washington D.C. in 1976. His ceaseless and courageous fight against Chilean tyrants earned him Chile's highest civilian award.

So this is the Saul Landau that I knew. He was a fighter for social and economic justice and fairness; a fearless public intellectual; a man of conviction. He was a restless mensch whose human qualities and basic decency I will never forget and whose memory will live forever engraved in my heart.

Emeritus Professor Saul Landau taught at Cal Poly Pomona for twelve years, retiring in 2006. He was a Hugh O. LaBounty Interdisciplinary Studies Chair, Director of Digital Media for CLASS, and a professor of History. He brought luminaries such as Gore Vidal and Harry Belafonte to Campus Forum. He hosted a regular television program *Hot Talk*, which was broadcast from our campus on LinkTV. He involved many students in his film-making and writing projects, through study abroad, his courses, and the minor degree program he started. Saul was a friend of CFA, labor, and faculty.