

The CSU board of trustees voted yesterday to raise student tuition by a startling 34% over the next five years.

I was at the board's meeting on Tuesday as student after student spoke during public comment. The students were angry. They felt betrayed. They implored the board to reconsider.

A few cried while speaking, expressing dismay that the board of trustees would raise tuition while the new chancellor is coming in with a *million-dollar-a-year compensation package* and *hundreds of millions a year* are going to the bloated MPP corps, countless consultants and whimsical vanity projects.

Hundreds of faculty and staff rallied outside the board meeting both in solidarity with the students and to demand *money for the classroom, not the boardroom*. It was gratifying to witness so many Pomona CFA members at the rally.

But the board of trustees ultimately voted against students.

And interim chancellor Koester blamed you for tuition hikes.

You, the CAPS Counselor caring for students facing life and death issues. You, the Coach giving everything for your student-athletes despite the fact that you are underpaid and depend on your win-loss record to keep your job. You the Librarian, understaffed and responsible for entire colleges on your own. You, the Lecturer charged with giving your students a bridge to the middle class despite your own constant financial precarity. And you, the Tenure Track Faculty, mentoring students and doing research for little to no compensation,

Yes, the interim chancellor blamed you.

Koester said the tuition hikes were necessary because of the "labor proposals" - despite the fact that CSU management floated the hikes *before CFA and CSU even began negotiations*.

They are blaming you in order to distract from the facts.

Management has stashed away \$3.7 Billion in designated balances & reserves, claiming the money is needed for economic uncertainty. If - following a pandemic, loss of faculty purchasing power, and low morale - today isn't a rainy day, we don't know what is.

On TOP of the \$3.7 Billion in reserves, CSU has investment funds that grew from \$5 Billion to \$8.6 Billion in the past 5 years.

- It appears that the chancellor's office and the board of trustees see the CSU as a hedge fund with an education side hustle

Management has no problem spending money on their own salaries.

- The new chancellor will make nearly \$1,000,000 per year in salary, housing and car allowances

- We just witnessed a wave of massive raises for campus presidents, pushing presidents' salaries above \$400,000 per year and as high as \$533,148.
- Spending on MPP salaries increased by 32% AFTER the state auditor said bloat was out of control and needed more oversight back in 2017

We are in a fight for the heart and soul of the CSU. Will money go the classroom or the boardroom?

There are a few things you can do now to support your students and yourself.

- Commit to take action for a fair contract [here](#).
- If you are not already a CFA member, [join today](#). CFA is only as strong as its membership.
- Invite Students for Quality Education (SQE) interns to address your class. Contact our student interns at jbarrett@calfac.org and jgarciaminjarez@calfac.org.

Don't let CSU management blame you for their bad management and misplaced priorities.