Faculty Share Concerns, Ideas With Chancellor Oakley During Town Hall

Distance Learning, Safe In-Person Instruction, Resources and Technology Were Hot Topics

On May 28, some 300 faculty attended a virtual town hall meeting called “Supporting Faculty During COVID-19 and the State Recovery,” and they took the opportunity to share opinions on topics such as certification for distance learning and safety issues involved in providing in-person instruction. Hosted by the Chancellor’s Office and CCA, the event’s highlights included hearing the perspectives of college students.

Danny Thirakul, president of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, said, “Just because you have a cookbook doesn’t make you a chef. Just because you’ve got the book doesn’t make you a teacher.” He shared student concerns and learning needs. “We want to make sure that people who are teaching us are properly trained and they have resources, so we can have the best education possible. On the other side, we need the same kind of training and the same kind of resources and technology in order to be successful as a student. Faculty and students essentially are in the same boat.”

The intent of the town hall, said CCA President Eric Kaljumägi, was for Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley to “hear from faculty and staff about what we’ve been facing on the ground.” In opening remarks, Oakley said, “We’re gathering the best thinking and the best information, from state offices, health department, and we’re considering the K-12 level, because we know what happens in K-12 impacts community colleges.”

Oakley noted work by faculty “has been better than any other education system,” and said his office was looking forward to connecting, engaging and collaborating with local partners to safely open when the time comes. He said re-opening in phases will be at the discretion of local health officials.

Throughout the town hall, polls were taken to assess participants’ experiences with issues such as colleges soliciting input from faculty and classified staff regarding plans for the fall semester. Oakley noted work by faculty “has been better than any other education system,” and said his office was looking forward to connecting, engaging and collaborating with local partners to safely open when the time comes. He said re-opening in phases will be at the discretion of local health officials.

Throughout the town hall, polls were taken to assess participants’ experiences with issues such as colleges soliciting input from faculty and classified staff regarding plans for the fall semester, certification for distance learning, access to necessary technology for remote learning, and expectations and safety issues regarding in-person instruction (left).

As expected, reopening was a hot topic, with one participant asking in the chat: “Once we have been given the direction to return to campus, who will be leading the discussions to develop guidelines for returning to campus safely?” Conversely, what kinds of accommodations are being discussed for faculty requesting to remain working remotely without the ability to maintain social distancing on campus in student services?”

“Understood, thank you,” Oakley responded. “My counterpart would be to ask: Would it not be eminently prudent to INCLUDE, on purpose, a doctor or epidemiologist onto the policymaking committees for each campus in order to interpret local public health recommendations correctly with regard to EACH college campus, which surely have different needs? I would venture that each college DOES likely have a medical doctor or epidemiologist — someone already employed at the college whose inclusion and input would be valuable as these groups meet to discuss this all-important issue. I might suggest that someone like that be identified at each college, and asked to join these committees temporarily during the duration of the public health crisis. Something to consider, perhaps.”

In addition to Oakley and Kaljumägi, participants heard from a panel of state leaders, including:

• California Federation of Teachers (CFT) – Jim Mahler
• California Community College Independents (CCCCC) – Jeffrey Michels
• California School Employees Association (CSEA) – Bill Rawlings
• Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) – John Stanisak
• Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) – Debbie Klein

Note: Their comments can be read in an expanded article at cta.org/educator and cca4us.org.

“We will continue conversations and appreciate the partnership that has emerged,” Vice Chancellor Lizette Navarrette noted. “One key piece we had as a takeaway is: Together we have a lot of efficacy to ensure we can secure the resources to continue supporting our students and faculty, distance education, and eventually safely reopening our campuses.”

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What CCA Is Doing in This New Environment

By CCA President Eric Kaljumägi

WHEN I WROTE my article for the March Advocate, I was devoting much of my time to monitoring statewide information, building relationships with statewide groups, and planning future events. Then COVID-19 spread in California, and my calendar changed from in-person meetings to meetings entirely on Webex and Zoom. I retrieved my daughter from her college dorm, set up my laptop in my garage, and went back to work.

The amount of information I am monitoring has significantly increased these past months. One service CCA provides to members is monitoring information about higher education, including reports from the Chancellor's Office, the Board of Governors, the Legislature and the governor. Between CTA staff, VP Randa Wahbe and myself, most of that flood of information is read and flagged for response or follow-up. We also follow the Chancellor's Office and CTA's internal newsfeeds to see what is being reported about community colleges.

Some information is then discussed with other groups. The Council of Faculty Organizations (CoFO) provides insight on legislators and advocacy groups that are working on positions of interest to us. In April, most of CoFO's members signed a letter asking for Student Centered Funding Formula funds to be focused in “base” and “supplemental” allocations rather than in the “performance” area. CoFO is preparing another letter to the Legislature with our recommendations for the governor's May budget revision. We joined the Chancellor's Office in an April letter on shared budget priorities.

CTA's legislative advocates, VP Wahbe, CTA Director DeWayne Sheaffer and I have provided significant input on community college needs and processes. We’ve given our perspective on how to reopen community colleges, demanded protective supplies and uniform safeguards, and related the difficulties and successes of faculty as they quickly implemented remote learning. Whether speaking to college presidents, legislative aides or CTA Board members, we ensure that the issues facing community college faculty are expressed and heard.

I'm learning how online CCA events might be possible in the future. To be sure, there's a networking and relationship-building component of our conferences that is difficult to reproduce online, but much of the content of our conference sessions can be expressed via webinars. CTA and NEA have scheduled all their major events through July online, including June State Council, NEA Representative Assembly, the Presidents Conference, and Summer Institute. However, the October State Council and the Region II Leadership Conference are scheduled to be in person, at least for now. CCA is still planning our fall conference for Oct. 9-11 in San Jose, but we are simultaneously working on a backup plan for a virtual conference if required. Likewise, regional events that we had to postpone from spring are being revised so that they can take place in the fall, in person or otherwise. Virus or no virus, we continue to press forward with our mission to serve you.

As we enter summer, the usual slowdown of change will probably not occur this year. I expect the Legislature to debate the state budget into at least August, and as the chancellor's emergency powers expire on Sept. 13, I anticipate a flurry of activity just before the fall semester begins.

"CCA WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR, DISCUSS, AND ADVOCATE ON YOUR BEHALF."

I thank you for your remarkable work in teaching remotely these past few months, and wish you calmness and health as you navigate what may continue to be a remote teaching experience for summer and fall. Please keep me informed about what is happening at your college by emailing me at president@cca4us.org. The better I understand your situation, the better I can advocate on your behalf.
Colleges WILL Need Full Funding to Reopen Safely

Update on the State Budget

A S T H I S E D I T I O N O F T H E A D V O C A T E goes to press, the fi-
nal decisions have not been made re-
garding the state’s budget and the funding for California’s community colleges. Get updates at cca4us.org or cta.org/our-advocacy/state-budget.

The COVID-19 crisis has created an economic environment that threat-
ens to devastate California’s public education. Gov. Newsom’s May bud-
get revision falls far short of what is necessary to reopen colleges and K-12 schools safely.

More must be done, said CCA Pres-
ident Eric Kaljumägi. “The health and safety of all students and faculty must be the first priority in reopening public schools and colleges, but the resources have to be available to make that hap-
pen. And faculty have to be part of those discussions and decisions.”

The May Revision reveals a $54.3 bil-
lion shortfall in state revenues compared to the governor’s January proposal, and a decrease of $10.6 billion in Propo-
sition 98 funds compared to last year. Under the governor’s proposal, funding for the Centered Funding Form-
ula (SCFF) would be cut by 10 per-
cent. This cut would be undone if add-
ditional federal funding comes in. The May Revision also includes cuts to most categorical programs.

The state Senate recently adopted its version of the budget. The plan:
• Includes a trigger deferral, unless federal funding comes in, and pro-
vides an additional $674 million deferral.
• Rej ects the 10 percent cut to the SCFF, and provides a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).
• Funds enrollment growth.
• Rejects the cuts to categorical pro-
grams, such as the Strong Workforce Programs, adult education, and part-time faculty office hours.
• Sweeps $77 million one-time fund-
ing from Calbright College.
At press time the Senate and As-
sembly did reach a budget agreement. Kaljumägi released the following state-
ment regarding that agreement:
“In 2018 an experimental new com-
mon community college district was formed that was to be entirely online, have neither units nor degrees, and be closely aligned with paid apprenticeships provided by large California companies. Starting up a new college district is not a sim-
pI e task, but Calbright’s refusal to rely on an established partner district, their duplication of online programs found elsewhere in the system, and their de-
lay in hiring full-time faculty shifted CCA’s position on this district from optimistically neutral to opposed. The Calbright experiment so far has a very high cost per student and a low success rate.

“With dramatic cuts to higher educa-
tion proposed by the governor this past May, shifting the nearly $100 million of unspent Calbright funds elsewhere in the higher education budget helps to pre-
sure the core of our educational system. Some 2.1 million community college stu-
dents, including the majority of nursing and paramedic students in the state, rely on the 114 accredited California Com-
munity Colleges for transfer prepara-
tion, career and technical education, and basic skills. We urge the Legislature and governor to continue to work towards a budget that allows these colleges to con-
tinue to provide the access to instruction needed for our students to reach their educational goals.”

The Legislature passed its budget on June 15, meeting its constitutional deadline.

Full-Court Press for Federal Funding

C T A / C C A A N D N E A are en-
gaged in a full-court press of state and national lawmakers to secure the funding our schools will need to reopen safely. CCA members should make their voices heard by con-
tacting lawmakers directly through our COVID-19 Budget Crisis page (cca.org/covid19budgetcrisis). The page provides links where you can contact your senators and your U.S. representatives.

Faculty are urging U.S. senators to pass the $5 trillion HEROES Act, and California lawmakers to pass a budget with no education cuts.

It’s going to take action! Email your lawmakers today.

Faculty Voices Heard at the Statehouse

M O N I T O R I N G L E G I S L A T I V E P R O C E S S and advocating for laws that achieve gains for students, facult-
y and community colleges are CCA priorities. When local CCA members have voiced concerns, CCA leaders have done whatever they could to address them in Sacramento. Unfor-
tunately, much of the work done on various issues took a backseat as the COVID-19 pandemic shifted law-
makers’ priorities.

At cca4us.org/legislationpolitical action, you can find the status and CCA position on bills on issues such as pay parity for part-time faculty, requirements for districts entering College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships, provisions regard-
ing admission to college nursing programs, job security issues, trans-
ferring sick leave, student fees, career development and college preparation courses, and issues involving the California College Promise program.

The CCA Legislation and Advo-
cacy Committee works with CTA Governmental Relations advocates to stay on top of the bills being pro-
posed and being considered, and they are actively engaged in making the employment environment better for college faculty. Since the pandemic, there has been more discussion of legislation addressing the basic needs of students.

What can college faculty do to support CCA’s work in Sacramento? “Connect with and provide feedback to the committee members about your ideas for sponsored bills for next session,” recommends Randa Wahle, chair of the CCA Legislation and Advocacy Committee and CCA vice president. Members of this com-
mittee recommend positions on leg-
islation to the CCA Council and the CTA State Legislation Committee, propose sponsored legislation, and promote political action on commu-
nity college issues.

Committee members are Randa Wahle, Ricardo Aguiar, John Martin, Narges Rabii-Rakin, Sharaon Vogel (pending CCA board approval), Josie Malik, Sharon Paxton, Wendy Brill-Wynkoop and Josue Arendondo.

Their contact information can be found at cca4us.org.
Announcing New Benefits

The Standard is Here for You

As the global health crisis continues to disrupt lives and communities, The Standard's commitment to CTA members remains unchanged. We are open and ready to help you with questions, claims, enrolling in coverage or updating your beneficiaries.

In these uncertain times, taking care of your loved ones is more important than ever. If you would like to learn more about how CTA-endorsed Disability and Life insurance can help protect your paycheck and loved ones, visit CTAMemberBenefits.org/TheStandard.

For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policies may be continued in force, please contact The Standard's dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406 (TTY).

Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204
GP190-LTD/02/20/CTA.1 GP190-LIFE/02/20/CTA.3 SI 21564-C RevOL (5/20)
In response to the memorials for George Floyd, who died in police custody, and demonstrations protesting racism across the country, CCA President Eric Kaljunõgi notes that college faculty, as educators, have a responsibility to work to abolish institutional racism.

WE CONTINUE TO SEE an appalling number of events where police harm the black members of our society, and we share the outrage at the indifference to life and safety expressed by some of those sworn to serve and protect us.

Black lives matter. We cannot tolerate police actions that allow compressing the neck of an unarmed man in handcuffs, as we saw with George Floyd, or no-knock police raids in the middle of the night by plain-clothes officers, as in the death of Breonna Taylor. Better training will help, but our culture must no longer accept these barbaric practices.

We cannot reach our ideal of freedom if we fear our police. The institutional racism inherent in our society is tenacious, and as educators, we have a responsibility to work to abolish it. While this will without doubt take time, we can act today to affect the culture of our homes and our campuses. Our students need to feel safe and respected, and though the worst offenses took place a thousand miles away, our alarm and disgust are present here and now.

We call upon our members to enhance their discussions of equity and diversity in light of these continuing shocking events. Will your campus use a police force in dark, threatening uniforms, or an unarmed public safety team? Will there be a focus on control or safety? Will their training guide them to de-escalate or criminalize behavior? Now is the time to press our campuses to be bastions of hope rather than simple reflections of society. It is the responsibility of educators to teach all students, some of whom will become our future leaders. Together, teachers can effect change in a way that most other professions cannot. Through our actions and influence, we can be the model that shows others how to reduce racism and inequity in our communities. Let us channel our personal grief and anger to do so.
ALTHOUGH LAWS ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY have been on the books for ages, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought the issue of helping students with disabilities, including those who are hard of hearing, blind or even colorblind, to the front of the class. As college faculty move from brick-and-mortar classrooms to virtual ones, providing live closed-captioning, transcriptions of lectures, and visuals has proved to be challenging. Here are few digital tools used by David Hurst, College of the Sequoias, to make the process a little more efficient.

CAMTASIA
techsmith.com/video-editor
A screen recording and editing program, it has a PowerPoint plug-in that can convert a presentation to video with your voice-over. It handles closed-captioning easily, though the software itself has a bit of a learning curve. Cost: $170 with the education discount. Note: This is not a subscription, so you own the software and can install it on two computers.

OTTER
otter.ai
An audio recording app for cellphones and tablets that works on all platforms. The free account allows for up to 600 minutes per month of recording, and the premium is worth considering. Otter instantly transcribes and saves the transcription with time stamps, and it can distinguish between different speakers. Transcriptions can be edited online or downloaded as a text file for editing or conversion to a caption file.

KANJIPEY
kanopy.com
A video subscription platform that has content aimed at public and educational institution libraries. The videos are already closed-captioned, and there is a broad range of educational content on the site that works seamlessly for students. Faculty can advocate their district purchase access, but it might also be possible to use the access from the local public library if they have a subscription (Fresno County does, for example).

SCREENCAST-O-MATIC
screencast-o-matic.com/education
A program similar to Camtasia, it integrates with Canvas. It is the basic of the basics with a free version that allows for screen recording. The cheapest paid version is only $20 per year and lets you add in captions, narration and music.
$200 Amazon.com Gift Card Bonus
(students not eligible)
If you make at least $500 in purchases in the first 90 days of account opening*

1% CASH BACK everywhere, every time

2% CASH BACK at grocery stores & wholesale clubs

3% CASH BACK in the category of your choice

Gas | Online Shopping | Dining | Travel | Drug Stores | Home Improvement & Furnishings

Earn 2% and 3% cash back on the first $2,500 in combined grocery store/wholesale club/choice category purchases each quarter, then earn 1%.

Choose your category for future purchases through the Mobile Banking app or Online Banking once each calendar month. Or, make no change and it stays the same.

CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE OR TO APPLY:
1.888.758.7946
www.newcardonline.com
Refer to Priority Code NAABDL

For more information about the rates, fees, other costs and benefits associated with the use of the credit card, call the toll-free number above or visit www.newcardonline.com and refer to the disclosures accompanying the application. Residents of the US and its territories only. See full disclosure for details.

* You will qualify for a $200 Amazon.com Gift Card if you use your new credit card account to make any combination of purchase transactions totaling at least $500 (exclusive of any fees, returns and adjustments) that post to your account within 90 days of the account open date. The account must be open and have active charging privileges to qualify for and receive the gift card. Limit 1 gift card per new account. This one-time promotion is limited to customers opening a new account in response to this offer and will not apply to requests to convert existing accounts. Other advertised promotional offers can vary from this promotion and may not be substituted. Allow 8-12 weeks from qualifying for delivery of the gift card. Offer sponsored by Bank of America. We may substitute an item of equal or greater value and we are not responsible for lost, stolen or undelivered merchandise. Federal law prohibits students from receiving the gift card premium. The value of this reward may constitute taxable income to you. You may be issued an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099 (or other appropriate form) that reflects the value of such reward. Please consult your tax advisor, as neither we, nor our affiliates, provide tax advice. Restrictions apply, see amazon.com/gc-legal.

Mobile Banking requires that you download the Mobile Banking app and is only available for select mobile devices. Message and data rates may apply.

This credit card program is issued and administered by Bank of America, N.A. Visa and Visa Signature are registered trademarks of Visa International Service Association, and are used by the issuer pursuant to license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Bank of America and the Bank of America logo are registered trademarks of Bank of America Corporation.
Congratulations to All Graduates!

FOR A COLLEGE FACULTY MEMBER, a parent or a student, honoring those who were gradu-
ating during this pandemic required new ways of doing
things. Across California, colleges and faculty worked
hard to virtually honor students, their families and com-
munities for their accomplishments, and to share the joy
of this moment through the beauty of technology. For example, members of the Charger Experience pro-
gram team at Cypress College (right) distributed regalia to
the college’s Promise students prior to the May 22 virtual
commencement. The Charger Experience program sup-
ports students’ transition into college, connecting them to
services and people on campus to help ensure a successful
higher education experience.

Pandemic Brings New Ways to Communicate, Advocate & Educate

PRE-COVID-19 PANDEMIC, your CCA
officers traveled the state visiting with chapter members,
discussing challenges facing local faculty and gaining
directions local members would like CCA to address at
the state level. In the visit with Mt. San Jacinto College
Faculty Association members (right), topics included
the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) and
Guided Pathways.

Like CCA members, officers have come up with new
and different ways to communicate and hear mem-
ber opinions and concerns: local presidents and board
members meet in online conference rooms. And, the
officers each have a new email address.

• CCA President Eric Kaljumägi –
  president@cca4us.org
• CCA Vice President Randa Wahbe –
  vp@cca4us.org
• CCA Secretary John Sullivan –
  secretary@cca4us.org
• CCA Treasurer Jonathan Ausubel –
  treasurer@cca4us.org

Find the contact information for all of CCA’s
board of directors at www.cca4us.org/about/
leadership/boardofdirectors.

CCA Webinars — Excellent Real-Time Resources

CCA IS PROVIDING A NUMBER OF
WEBINARS to meet the needs of part-time and full-
time faculty. CCA’s Unemployment Insurance for Part-
Time Faculty webinar, for example, was presented three
times during May and was attended by 640 people. Also
well attended were webinars on remote union meetings
and membership outreach. The June 5 webinar, Bargaining Im-
lications of Distance Learning, involved 56 participants.

Additional CCA webinars were held on the following topics:

• Legislative Updates – June 22
• Telling the Story of College District Finances – June 24
• State Budget Overview – June 25
• Contract Enforcement and Bargaining Strategies –
  TBD

CCA members can find more webinar offerings and
get registration information, including links, from lo-
cal presidents, their CTA field staff, from the CCA
Closed Facebook Group or from the calendar on CCA’s

Join CCA’s Private Facebook Group

ANOTHER WAY TO CONNECT WITH
CCA leadership and members, or to network with col-
leagues on community college issues, is to join CCA’s pri-
vate Facebook group. This private group is for CCA leaders
to privately discuss issues and share information and re-
sources. Participants must understand that materials shared
there are NOT to be shared publicly. CCA members who
want to join the group can go to facebook.com/groups/
cca4us and ask to join. They must answer questions about
their CCA membership to join the private group.

CCA is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its
members and the students they serve. Get updates, health
and safety information, and resources about COVID-19 at
CCA’s website, private Facebook group and on CTA’s pri-
ivate page: www.facebook.com/groups/ccacover19. There
you will find numerous distance learning webinars.

COVID-19 Moves Everything Online

CONFERENCES — The Home Edition!
To ensure the safety of our members,
CTA/CCA has moved its summer
conferences online.

THE PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE
HOME EDITION will be held free of charge
to CTA leaders on July 13-17. Find details and register at
tago.org.

This will be an extraordinary opportunity for
new and experienced chapter leaders to sign up for
virtual sessions designed to enhance your skills as a
local leader and help build systems of success for
your local chapter.

There are three sessions specifically for CCA
presidents: an orientation, bargaining implications
of distance learning, and diversity and equity
issues. CTA’s Presidents Conference provides new
and returning presidents a foundation to rely upon as
we prepare our chapters well into the future. A
variety of informative skill-building sessions will
provide opportunities to build lasting relationships
with other local leaders.

2020 Summer Institute Home Edition, July
27-30, is provided free of charge to CTA members.
Note: University credit and professional growth
hours are available. Find details and register at
ctago.org.

These sessions focus on preparing you and your
local for the challenges that lie ahead, and with a
special emphasis on the unique issues we will all
face as we return to our college campuses in this
new era of COVID-19. Topics include: bargain-
ing and building relationships in the midst of a
pandemic, building site-based power, economic
and social justice, how best to utilize CTA/NEA
member benefits, budgeting and district finances,
ways to deal with anxiety and stress, digital tools
to communicate with faculty and the public, and
diverse professional development sessions.

Again, both conferences will be free to CCA/
CTA members. Registration and additional infor-
mation are at ctago.org.