

CFA Report to CAFE Board Meeting

February 8, 2025

Dr. Rosalinda Quintanar, S.

Funding Cuts for the California State Universities

On January 10, Governor Newsom shared the [proposed state budget for 2025-26](#), announcing a reduction to the ongoing CSU General Fund support by 7.95 percent, or \$375.2 million, beginning in the 2025-26 fiscal year. These cuts will further devastate campuses such as Sonoma State that are already facing severe austerity.

These cuts will also succeed in negatively impacting enrollment and retention at the CSU, of mostly African American and Mexican/Latino students.”

The CSU remains the largest four-year public higher education system in the US and a cornerstone of California’s workforce. It is also one of the most [ethnically and racially diverse public university systems](#) in the nation. Any cuts to the system not only jeopardize the economic health of California, but they undermine efforts to provide equitable access to education and opportunities for under resourced students.

[CSU management has projected a significant state funding shortfall of roughly \\$400 or more million](#) for the 2025-26 academic year to the estimated operating budget of \$8.3 billion. These excessively bleak projections have given rise to tuition hikes, unnecessary job loss, heavier workloads for faculty, and challenges in making sure that students stay enrolled.

Difficult Budget Cuts to Sonoma State University

The University has had a budget deficit for several years. It is attributable to a variety of factors – cost of personnel, price increases for supplies and utilities, inflation – but the main reason is declining enrollment. Student tuition and fees, combined with enrollment based funding from The California State University, are the major sources of revenue in the university budget. Sonoma State’s enrollment has dropped 38% since its peak in 2015.

Consequently, today, approximately 46 university faculty – both tenured and adjunct – will receive notice that their contracts will not be renewed for 2025-26. Additional lecturers will receive notice that no work will be available in fall 2025. Four management positions and 12 staff positions also will be eliminated. Additionally, several academic departments and programs will be combined, downsized, and/or eliminated as follows:

I want to note that budget cuts were not across-the-board based on a set percentage. They were done strategically, with an eye toward effective realignment of staff and resources based on anticipated future needs.

These reductions include:

- \$8 million in reduced instructional costs
- \$3.8 million from reorganization/MPP non-retention

Working with Immigrant Communities

The attack on Immigrant communities has intensified. We recognize the undeniable fear of our students, and this is why we want to make sure everyone knows that under our U.S. Constitution, all students have a right to receive an education without discrimination regardless of their immigration status and the right to attend campuses which are safe, secure, and peaceful. We want communities most impacted by these threats to know that we are in solidarity with you and together we will resist and reject Trump's most devastating policies.

We will also be working with our CSU sibling unions, and SEIU CA, SEIU International, AAUP and AFT and partners, like CAFE to protect our students, staff, faculty and their communities.

For more information on campus and other immigration services and resources, please check out the [CFA Immigration Task Force Webpage](#).