

Wilma Krebs Retires as Legislative Chair

Wilma Krebs, CSU—ERFA’s principal spokesperson in the state capital for nearly two decades, has retired as chair of the organization’s Legislative Committee. She will be replaced by Robert Bess, past president of the CSU Sacramento affiliate. Krebs has agreed to remain a member of both the Legislative and Health Benefits Committees.

To honor Krebs, the CSU-ERFA State Council at its April 22 meeting in Sacramento adopted, by acclamation, a resolution declaring “its profound appreciation to professor Wilma Krebs for her devoted and extraordinarily effective service as its legislative and health benefits advocate.” The resolution, which was presented by President David Elliott during a standing ovation, further declared Wilma to be an honorary member of the State Council.

Krebs has served terms as vice president of CSU-ERFA and has been a long-time member-at-large of the Executive Committee. Milt Dobkin (Humboldt), who has worked closely with Krebs through the years, told the State Council that she was offered the presidency of the organization on numerous occasions, but always

■ Krebs Receives honor from CSU-ERFA State Council.



declined “in order to work in the trenches” for retirees.

Krebs was born and raised near Vancouver, Canada, received her B.A. from the University of British Columbia and earned her Ph.D. in economics from the University of California Berkeley. For a few years she taught at the University of California Los Angeles, and then accepted appointment in the economics

department at Sacramento State College.

At Sacramento, which became California State University Sacramento, Krebs was an officer in the CSEA Academic Society, a precursor of the California Faculty Association, and represented 51 grievants in 35 cases at that institution. She was a delegate to the first statewide meeting of CFA, which made dramatic progress in its first year of existence, and was elected president of CFA’s Sacramento State’s chapter in 1979.

Krebs “retired” from full-time teaching in 1983, but continued to teach in FERP status until spring 1990, when her colleagues bade formal farewell. Krebs joined the fledgling Association of Emeriti Professors (AEP), forerunner of CSU-ERFA, on Sept. 1, 1987 and promptly was elected vice president, an office she held for a number of years. She also served as liaison for the AEP with the Senior Coalition in Sacramento.

While she was still teaching, Krebs be-

(See Krebs on page 7)

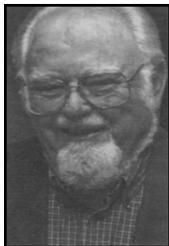
Progress on Health Programs at CalPERS, or Maybe Not

By Milt Dobkin, Humboldt

Director of health benefits

As a result of requests by both CSU-ERFA health benefits personnel and CFA, George Diehr has acted to encourage CalPERS staff to return to a consultative mode of operation before presenting staff recommendations to the CalPERS Health Benefits Committee.

The importance of staff complying with



Diehr’s request was given emphasis by the nature of discussions by committee members and representatives of active and retiree organizations at the May 16, 2006 meeting of the committee.

Usually this committee’s meeting lasts about two hours with discussions being completed by staff, the meeting lasted beyond 4 p.m. and was followed by an executive session devoted to 2007 health plan rate negotiations which extended into the evening.

Among other agenda items stimulating queries and mixed responses were the following:

1. A Blue Cross proposal to add a new option to PersChoice and PersCare called PersSelect, which would reduce premiums slightly by limiting physician participation to those meeting “efficiency” standards (as yet largely undefined).

2. A Blue Shield proposal to withdraw HMO services from some rural (and not so rural) counties and withdraw some EPO (exclusive provider plans) from counties now served by them and to substitute a “point of service” plan for such counties. This proposal is coupled with

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Executive Committee 2006-2007

Donald O. Dewey (Los Angeles),
president
Samuel Wiley (Dominguez Hills),
vice president
Judith Stanley (East Bay),
secretary
Robert Maurer (Chico), treasurer
David H. Elliott (San Jose),
past president
Robert O. Bess (Sacramento),
at large
Milton Dobkin (Humboldt),
at large
Iris Shah (Northridge), at large
Frieda Stahl (Los Angeles), at large
Robert D. Kully (Los Angeles),
executive director

Committee chairs

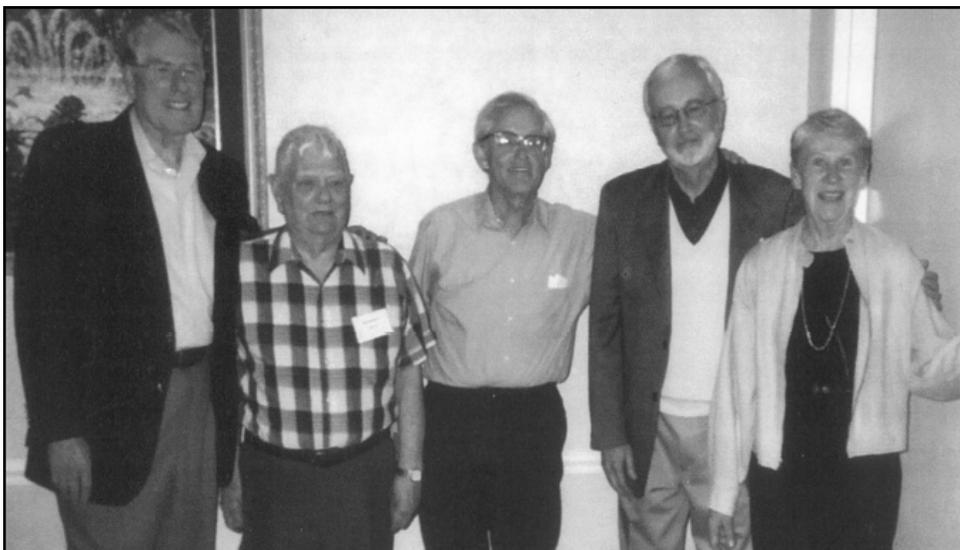
Max Norton (Stanislaus),
grant awards
Robert O. Bess (Sacramento),
director of legislative affairs
Milton Dobkin (Humboldt), direc-
tor of health benefits
Don Cameron (Northridge),
membership
William Blischke (Dominguez
Hills), pre-and-post-retirement
Judson Grenier (Dominguez Hills),
archivist

Liaisons

H. Dieter Renning (Stanislaus),
liaison to CFA
Ronald Kroman (Long Beach),
liaison to CSU Academic Senate

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Here members of the 2006-2007 CSU-ERFA Executive Committee take a moment to pose for a picture. From left to right David Elliott, Robert Maurer, Donald Dewey, Sam Wiley and Judith Stanley

From the president

Our Retirement is Under Attack—Again

By David H. Elliott, San Jose
CSU-ERFA president

In thinking about what I want to say in my final message as your president, my thoughts have returned again and again to the idea of accountability. Contrary to the expectations of many, I think this is a natural impulse for academicians. Most of us are deeply grateful for the opportunities we have had to serve and learn, and we are more than willing to provide an accounting of our achievements, in return for the trust our society has placed in us as educational professionals.

This is not to say that I am enthused about the so-called "Accountability Movement" that has engulfed higher education in recent years, particularly here in our state. Proponents of this movement, which commenced for us during the Reagan years, routinely use accountability as an excuse for withholding funds from institutions that are already too anemic to be accountable. They also use it to justify counterproductive increases in tuition, to create unhealthy dependence on outside funding, and to impose a green eyeshade mentality where numbers crowd out everything else and push qualitative considerations to the margins of our evaluative processes.

Having said this, I still feel obliged to provide a brief accounting of this year's achievements. Some of you will remember

that in my first message as your president, I expressed a strong need for new leadership. For an organization such as ours, comprised entirely of retired people, this will always be a pressing need, so I am pleased to report significant progress in this regard.

Thanks to the fine work of our Nominating Committee, chaired by Bill Blischke (Dominguez Hills) and including Don Cameron (Northridge), Barbara Sinclair (Los Angeles), Aubrey Wendling (San Diego) and Bob Wilson (San Jose) as members, we have an outstanding team of officers for the coming year. Don Dewey (Los Angeles), our current vice president, has been elected president and he will be assisted by Sam Wiley (Dominguez Hills) as vice president, Bob Maurer (Chico) as treasurer and Judith Stanley (East Bay) as secretary. Wiley and Stanley will both be new to the Executive Committee. In addition, Bob Bess (Sacramento) and Frieda Stahl (Los Angeles) will serve on the Executive Committee for the first time as members-at-large. Also, as is reported elsewhere in this issue of *The Reporter*, we have created a new webmaster position and will ask the person who occupies this post to serve as a member of the Executive Committee. Finally, and sadly, we need to

(See Elliott on page 3)

An Appreciation and a Farewell

On April 3, 2006, Howard Seemann, who was in his sixth year at *The Reporter* editor, died of a heart attack.

Howard, preached the virtue of unadorned, precise sentences to his journalism students, and to any writers such as those who contributed to *The Reporter*, that sentence needs improvement.

Sorry, old friend! It was hard to meet your criterion.

Students remember his example of the perfect sentence. "Jesus wept."

When Howard accepted election to become editor, it was on condition that he would edit, not write, *The Reporter*.

He "rode herd" on us needling those who failed to meet his copy deadlines and gently excising that which was too verbose.

But even during his active professional years, and on into his emeritus years, he never surrendered his habits as a professional journalist.

Howard was always interviewing someone, especially complete strangers, as they simply fascinated him. An example was recalled by a retired California Highway Patrol officer who wrote a letter to the Times-Standard (Humboldt County) about his encounter with Howard during his early years at Humboldt State.

Howard was speeding and the officer pulled him over and wrote the ticket. After the writing was finished, Howard asked if he could leave the vehicle. The officer anticipated trouble but permitted Howard to do so. The result was a lengthy interview about the



officer, his work and his family.

The officer was impressed and encouraged his daughter to major in journalism when she entered Humboldt. He concluded his letter with praise for

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Elliott

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find a new editor to replace Howard Seemann, and this person will be added to the Executive Committee as a new member. In sum, the next Executive Committee will include six new members.

I am also pleased to report that, for the first time in many years, all of our committees have a full complement of members, several of whom are new to CSU-ERFA leadership. Max Norton (Stanislaus) and Milt Dobkin (Humboldt) will continue, respectively, providing excellent leadership to our Grant Awards and Health Benefits Committees. Two new members, Dave Humphers (Sacramento) and Bob Wilson (San Jose) have been added to Dobkin's committee and he has been given the new title, "Director of Health Benefits."

Fortunately, we were able to recruit Bob Bess, the highly respected and talented departing president of the Sacramento affiliate, as the new chair of our Legislative Committee, and two of his campus colleagues, Bette Polkinghorn and Peter Shattuck, will join him as new members of that committee. Bess has also been given the new title, "Director of Legislative Affairs." Don Cameron (Northridge) was appointed earlier this year as the new chair of our Membership Committee, and he will continue in this vital role

during the coming year. Two new members, Adnan Daoud (San Jose) and Dave Quadro (Fresno) have been added to his committee. And finally, with regard to committees, Bill Blischke (Dominguez Hills) has agreed to replace Sam Wiley as chair of our Pre- and Post- Retirement Concerns Committee.

Other advances during the current year include: (1) revision of our dues structure (reported elsewhere in this issue) to bring it into closer alignment with current pension payments; (2) creation of a new Listserv that will facilitate instant communication with members who have e-mail; (3) revision of our Web site; with definite plans for more thorough overhaul in the near future; (4) initiation of a long overdue review and revision of our By-Laws, under the able leadership of former president, Bob Maurer (Chico); and (5) appointment of an exceptionally well qualified colleague, Judson Grenier (Dominguez Hills), as our new archivist.

In addition to implementing these new initiatives, we have done our best throughout the year to discharge our regular responsibilities. We have been active on many fronts, representing the interests of retired faculty in Sacramento (Wilma Krebs, Milt Dobkin, Bob Bess), in the CFA (Dieter Renning); and in the CSU Academic Senate (Ron Kroman). In a continuing effort to keep our members informed of important developments; we

have published four issues of *The CSU-ERFA Reporter* and we have had frequent contacts with campus affiliate presidents. We would like to believe our positions on last year's ballot propositions and on the various attempts to gut our retirement system have made a difference. We know that the determined advocacy of Wilma Krebs and Milt Dobkin on these and other matters has made a difference.

I think most observers will agree that this has been a productive year for CSU-ERFA and I want to thank every member of our team for the personal support they have given to me and for the outstanding service they have provided to our members. I know we have imposed many additional burdens this year on my old friend, Bob Kully, our executive director, and I am grateful for the help he has been able to provide to all of us.

I will always have a special place in my heart for our grateful, and resourceful, office manager, Linda Zimmerman. She is a vital link in everything we do. And, finally, with the possible exception of George W. Bush, no president has ever had a more supportive vice president than I have been privileged to have. Don Dewey, has helped me in more ways than I can count and he has always "had my back." I am pleased to leave you in his good hands.

21st Century Dues Structure for CSU-ERFA

By Donald O. Dewey (LA)
CSU-ERFA vice president

Frustrated by CSU-ERFA's inability to communicate with the membership on a timely basis when advice was needed on pressing matters, such as forthcoming votes on electoral issues and information on Medicare Plan D, President David Elliott formed a taskforce to recommend a solution.

Chaired by Vice President Don Dewey (Los Angeles), the taskforce also included Sam Wylie (Dominguez Hills) and Judith Standley (East Bay) and was ably augmented by Dave Elliott, Executive Director Robert Kully and office manager Linda Zimmerman.

The task force fairly quickly abandoned fantasizing about competing soon with the large-muscled and large-moneyed organizations and focused on what could be accomplished within our present, or reasonably augmented resources. Most important was a revised dues structure that was supported unanimously by the Executive Committee in February and then by the State Council in the April meeting at Sacramento.

Noting the dramatic increase in retirement payments in the nearly two decades since CSU-ERFA was founded, the Council agreed to the deletion of the two lowest salary steps (applicable now to very few retirees) and added two higher steps to reflect changes through cost of living increases for retirees but most of all through increased salaries of faculty prior to retirement.

Most of our present members approved a monthly dues payment from their retirement bene-

fit from the Public Employees Retirement System when they retired, often many years ago. Only they can authorize a change in dues that would bring them into the new century.

Hopefully a consideration of the benefits provided by CSU-ERFA representation, highlighted by Milton Dobkin's shepherding of health care issues and the monitoring of retiree and CSU legislative interests in Sacramento, for many years by Wilma Krebs and beginning this year by Robert Bess, will persuade many to send authorization for additional monthly dues payment. Naturally, members who pay annually by check can make the change without this formality.

Nearly all members of the Executive Committee agreed that they would adhere to the new dues structure if approved by the council. Several have already done so, some even before council action, approving a change from \$6 to \$10 per month. Some "senior" council members even expressed surprise that they were still paying the same amount as when they first retired; they had blithely assumed, without ever checking, that their assessments had increased in tandem with their monthly benefits.

Officers of emeriti associations will be pleased when reminded that their resources for their campus organization will be enhanced as the customary 15 percent rebate to their campus organizations will be based on a somewhat larger figure.

(See *Dues on page 8*)



State Faces Unanticipated Health Care Costs, Legislative Analyst Warns Council Members

By Judson Grenier, Dominguez Hills
CSU-ERF archivist

State Council members received a sobering assessment of the state's financial condition from Elizabeth G. Hill, Legislative Analyst, at their spring meeting in Sacramento on April 22. Hill warned that spiraling health care costs for both current employees and retirees mandate either retrenchment or a tax increase.

Hill was introduced as the meeting's principal speaker by President David Elliott, who remarked that she had received a bachelor's degree in biology from Stanford, but "bolted to Berkeley" for her master's in public policy. (Elliott was a Stanford grad). Hill joined California's Legislative Analyst's Office in 1976 and a decade later, was named by the legislature to head the office, a position she has held for 20 years.

Hill began her remarks by providing a brief overview of the history and function of the office, where she serves as a nonpartisan fiscal advisor to the legislature, oversees analyses of the state budget and its

various programs, and prepares analyses of measures qualifying for the state ballot.

She then put State Council members to a test of their public affairs acumen, asking for a true or false show of hands on such statements as "The majority of entering freshmen are qualified in English and math skills," "student fees cover most of the costs of a college education" and "most incoming college freshmen graduate in four years," all of which generated considerable mirth.

Hill mentioned that her office recently published a series of analyses of the 2006-07 budget proposals, as well as a publication entitled "Funding Enrollment Growth at UC and CSU." She admitted advocating higher student fees to cover increased costs, even though the governor has rejected such a step during this election year.

The state's immediate financial future seems rosy because of unanticipated

(See *Analyst on page 7*)

Legislative Bill Tracking

By Robert O. Bess, Sacramento
Director of Legislative affairs

CSU-ERFA attempts to keep its members informed about legislation of interest to retirees, present and future. In addition to this newsletter and our recently instituted Listserv subscription, periodic reports are made to the Executive Committee and the State Council. However, the Legislative process has a life of its own which pays no attention to constituent calendars. If you have an interest in a particular bill or type of legislation and have access to the Internet, you can do your own bill tracking. The procedure

“...the Legislative process has a life of its own which pays no attention to constituent calendars...”

is quite simple and will ensure that you have the latest information.

In most cases you will know the bill number, but if you do not, it is still possible to search by the judicious use of keywords or by author name. Once you are online simply enter www.californiale legislature.ca.gov and you will be presented with a number of choices. Click on bill information and you will be taken to a page which allows you to enter the bill number, whether it is a current bill and you will see a page, which includes a link to a report on its history and its status. That is all there is to it.

(See Tracking on page 8)



CSU - ERFA Legislative Report

By Robert O. Bess, Sacramento
Director of Legislative Affairs

As I assume the duties of Director of Legislative Affairs (think Chair of Committee on legislation), I have been struck by the ability, dedication and support of my new colleagues who make up the group known as SCORE. Members include individuals, such as our own Wilma Krebs, who have devoted years to studying and understanding governmental issues of importance to present and future retirees. The group meets monthly, and is essentially a seminar on current issues. Equally important is the fact that members share information between meetings. Although we are one of the smaller groups represented in SCORE, our concerns and views are valued. We are indeed fortunate to be part of this unusual and effective group.

Watching governmental matters of interest to our membership tends to be a two-part activity. Bills may take shape on the initiative of individual members of the legislature, administrative sponsorship, and for us in particular, at the request of CalPERS. In addition, CalPERS devotes substantial resources to monitoring all legislation, which may be relevant to members. As part of my “training,” Wilma has taken me to a variety of meetings and is always ready to lend a hand. Our organization owes Wilma a degree of thanks that is probably beyond our means. In addition, I wish to thank her for continuing to make

(See Legislative on page 8)

Report from the Academic Senate CSU

By Harold Goldwhite
Retiree Senator, CSU academic senate

The Academic Senate, CSU, met in Long Beach at system headquarters on March 8 -10, 2006. Among the many agenda items, the one that attracted the most attention, and by far the longest debate, was the proposed amendment to the Senate by giving some of the larger campuses an extra representative. There was an understanding at that time that this increase in Senate size would not be accompanied by major increases in the Senate’s budget.

In the past year, the Senate’s budget has been strained to, and beyond, the limit. As a response the Executive Committee of the Senate proposed a constitutional amendment that would roll back the size of the Senate nearly to its earlier level. The position of Retiree Senator, added in the early 90s, would be retained.

In debate, a number of amendments to the Executive Committee’s proposal were discussed including the

idea of modeling the Senate on the U.S. Senate by giving each campus two senators. However, the original Executive Committee proposal was adopted by a margin of about 2 to 1. This proposal will give the seven largest campuses three senators each, with the remaining campuses having two.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Constitutional Amendment was submitted to a vote of the faculty of the CSU and was passed by a large margin of those voting. It was an Action Item on the Board of Trustees’ agenda for the May 2006 meeting. If the Board approves the Amendment it will become effective for fall 2006.

One other item of interest is the progress of the CSU towards its first independent doctorate, the ED.D. Committees composed of Senators, campus faculty and administrators have drafted guidelines for implementation of this new degree and accompanying Title 5 language changes. It is expected that the first offerings of the new doctorate will take place in fall 2007.

'Something Stupid'

By David H. Elliott, San Jose CSU-ERFA president

Some of you will realize that the title of this article is not original; that I borrowed it from Frank and Nancy Sinatra. I recently learned that, back in the late eighties, the Chancellor's Office did something stupid; something that could potentially change the way we make decisions on academic and professional matters within the CSU.

In 1978, while I was still serving as chair of the CSU Academic Senate and Bob Kully was vice chair, we were able to secure language in the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act (HEERA), that seemed to assure a continuing role for academic senates in all academic and professional decisions. With the support of the employee organizations (CFA and UPC), we were able to secure adoption of the following language regarding the arthroscopic of bargaining:

For purposes of the California State University's only

scope of representation means, and is limited to wages, hours of employment, and other terms and conditions of employment. The scope of representation shall not include... (D) Criteria and standards to be used for the appointment, promotion, evaluation and tenure of academic employees, which shall be the joint responsibility of the academic senate and the trustees. The exclusive representative shall have the right to consult and be consulted on matters excluded from the arthroscopic of representation pursuant to this subparagraph from the responsibility of the academic senate; the matter shall be within the scope of representation. Section 3562(r)(1).

Although not perfect, this language seemed to guarantee that academic and professional decisions would be excluded from bargaining and would continue to be made by the academic senate, in consultation with management. With this language, the only way that academic and professional

decisions could end up on the bargaining table would be if management were to withdraw such a decision from the responsibility of the academic senate – and we all assumed that management would never be stupid enough to do this.

Even though we received strong assurances at that time from responsible CSU officials, including Marjory Downing Wagner, Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs; that management would always prefer working with senates on academic and professional matters, in at least one instance, this has not proven to be the case. I recently learned that, back in 1986, management agreed to bargain with CFA on the administration of student evaluations of teaching questionnaires and as a consequence, a section on this matter (15.14) is included in the current union contract. Furthermore, Ken Peter, chair of the political science department on my campus (San Jose), has informed me that our academic senate recently

lost a grievance case dealing with the frequency of student evaluations of teaching due, in large part, to the arbitrator's finding that, in agreeing to bargain on these evaluations in 1986, the Trustees, in effect, withdrew this matter from the responsibility of the senate.

We can only hope that this precedent does not take on larger dimension in coming bargaining sessions – and that, in all future bargaining, the Chancellor's Office will be able to avoid the kind of stupidity it displayed in 1986. We may disagree with one another regarding the merits and the frequency of student evaluations of faculty, but I doubt that there is any significant disagreement among faculty regarding the appropriate venue for deciding such matters. The responsibility for determining the criteria and standards for the appointment, promotion, evaluation and tenure of academic employees must remain with the senate.

Membership Goal - 3,000 Plus by October

By Don Cameron, Northridge

Membership committee chair

CSU-ERFA membership has approached but never reached 3,000 on several occasions in recent years.

The March 31, 2006 monthly report showed 2,920 active members. With significant number of CSU faculty retirements over the coming months, plus a large pool of retirees in recent years who have not yet joined, we should be able to reach and surpass the 3,000 mark.

The Membership Committee has initiated several steps to help increase CSU-ERFA membership. A member will be identified on each promotion materials, lists of current members and names of colleagues who have recently retired and become eligible for membership. On those campuses that have an active local organization and CSU-ERFA will be coordinated. Documents available to potential members will be revised, including the CSU-ERFA brochure and list of accomplishments.

Get Vital Information with Listserv

If you have not subscribed to the CSU-ERFA Listserv, please do so now. It is your best way to get important information without delay. To enroll in the CSU-ERFA Listserv, use one of the following methods:

ONE: Go online and type the Web site address into your browser: <http://lists.sjsu.edu/lists&+csu-erfa>

When you see the form on the Web site, simply fill in your name and full e-mail address. You will receive confirmation by e-mail that you have been added to the list.

TWO: Simply send an e-mail to Listproc@listproc.sjsu.edu. You may leave the subject line blank; in the body (text area) of the note enter the following request:

SUBSCRIBE csu-erfa followed by your first name and your last name.

You should receive confirmation that you have been added to the list and will be able to receive e-mails sent to its members by CSU-ERFA.

Health

Continued from page 1

proposals to “pay cash incentives” to encourage plan members to exercise regularly and eat a healthy diet. It appears that Blue Shield feels that it cannot support a competitive HMO program and it wishes to contract for a modified PPO type of plan.

3. A proposal to offer Blue Shield another three year contract, (without seeking to find if there are competitive bids available) was also discussed.

In addition to these items the committee endorsed delaying action to seek participation in Medicare Part D for purposes of securing a retiree drug subsidy until obtaining an Attorney General’s opinion on how to qualify for such an RDS and to give CalPERS staff time to then develop an RDS application to CMS which administers the Medicare program.

The committee did approve increasing premiums for the Long Term Care program for new enrollees. Changed premiums/benefits for existing policy holders may be taken up at the June 20 meeting of the CalPERS Health Benefits Committee.

CSU-ERFA is seeking to protect annuitants from rate increases to the extent possible.

The CSU-ERFA Health Benefits Committee is indebted to member David Humphers who attended the afternoon session and contributed to this summary.

Analyst

Continued from page 4

revenues, but Hill warned that economic forecasts are always uncertain, with the budget vulnerable to the cost of oil, natural disasters, a housing slump, capital loss or unexpected expenses such as lawsuits.

The state’s retirement systems are currently well-funded, but both CalPERS and STRS must devote more attention to their liability for retiree health care. Fortunately, CalPERS has an automatic system to protect itself, Hill asserted.

Federally mandated changes in accounting rules soon will impact all units of government, she warned. The total liabilities of states and cities for retiree care have been hidden, but in December of this year, new rules (nicknamed “Gasby 45” for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board) require governmental entities to disclose their retiree health-care expenses for the next 30 years.

Hill stated that we don’t yet know Califor-

nia’s total unfunded liability, but it could be \$40-\$70 billion, which would have to be shown on the books. Currently the state pays \$1 billion for retiree health care, and we may need twice that or more to resolve the problem, she asserted. State government must examine various means of reducing expenses or charging employees more of the costs of health care in the future.

In conclusion, Hill chided state government for not doing more in the current

“...we don’t yet know California’s total unfunded liability, but it could be \$40-\$50 billion...”

budget “to put ourselves in order financially,” especially in not grappling with the state’s debt and the problem of unfunded liability.

Hill then responded to questions on a variety of topics.

For example, she doubted that emergency expenses would cause the state bond rating to be lowered because general obligation bonds are protected by constitutional language. She also allowed that the Legislative Analyst’s office was agreeable to recognizing that the 12-unit load (nine contact hours) is appropriate at the graduate level.

State Council members gave Hill a standing ovation, after which she embraced her cousin Max Norton (Stanislaus), chaired CSU-ERFA’s Grant Awards Committee, who facilitated her visit, and Executive Director Robert

Krebs

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gan walking the halls of the State Capitol and studying pending legislation, making acquaintances with legislators and government employees. She continued these activities after retirement and with the advent of the computer, she spent countless hours monitoring the progress of bills from their genesis until they were chaptered.

She also served as a volunteer trainer with the regional Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, helped organize the Fairness to Seniors Coalition, and worked diligently to overturn or amend legislation which was perceived to be detrimental to seniors, such as the Catastrophic Medical Care Act.

As the long-term chair of CSU-ERFA’s Legislative Committee, Krebs represented the group in many public hearings in Sacramento and became a fixture at meetings of CalPERS, eventually being asked to serve as chair of the Long-Term Care Advisory Committee. Krebs also headed the State Coalition of Retired Employees (SCORE), of which CSU-ERFA is a member, and for many years served as a spokesperson for that group at CalPERS and legislative committee hearings.

Her sensitivity to political matters that could impact retirees have led her to take an active role opposing legislation or election initiatives that would reduce or alter current retirement benefits for state employees, and she was an enthusiastic member of the alliance formed to defeat

the propositions facing state voters in the 2005 special election.

From the earliest days of CSU-ERFA, Krebs has served as a liaison with local campus emeritus affiliates. Through the years she consistently has been the organization’s most popular speaker, invited to address luncheon and dinner meetings throughout the state where her presentations and personality have endeared her to retirees. This tireless activity necessitated a heavy travel schedule, which she is just now willing to relinquish.

Krebs is married, with a son, daughter and three grandchildren, who might file a claim on her time. But CSU-ERFA has always considered itself a part of her extended family and is confident that she will continue to provide emeriti with her sage advice in the years ahead.

Tracking

Continued from page 5

Once you become familiar with the bill-tracking feature of the Web site, you will discover that it also provides extensive information on legislative membership, districts and the pending budget. This latter feature provides access to the entire Legislative Analyst's Report as well as department of finance budget information.

Unfortunately, you will not find a schedule of bills to be heard. Presumably because there are so many changes regarding hearings, committees to be involved, etc. it is impractical to attempt to project such a schedule. However, you will be able to "subscribe" to as many as 100 bills. Subsequently, you will receive e-mail messages providing regular status updates.

Should you have any questions about this procedure, or if you need help to identify a particular piece of legislation please feel free to make an inquiry to Bob Bess, CSU-ERFA Director of Legislative Affairs. He can be reached by e-mail at rbess@sbcglobal.net or by phone at (916) 342-3961.

Farewell

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Howard's teaching and advising, and said that the ticket was the only one he later regretted writing.

"Howard has been described in some accounts after his death as an "old school, hard boiled newspaperman."

While he won many awards for the work of his students (he loved being an adviser to the student newspaper) and for his own professional journalism efforts, he was not a staid professor. Possessed of a ribald sense of humor saltier than his hero, Garrison Keilor, he was unworried about reactions to his story telling.

The celebration of his life, which was held on the Humboldt State University campus on April 8, 2006 was attended by faculty, staff, students and community friends, many of whom traveled great distances to talk about the Howard they knew.

He will continue to be missed by all of us in CSU-ERFA who knew him.

-Milt Dobkin, Humbolt

Legislative

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this transition downright pleasant and for her willingness to remain active in her areas of special expertise. SCORE members consider her to be the long-term care "guru," and all of us hope that she will continue to work in this area.

In early May as this article is being prepared, it is an understatement to say that things are quiet on the Legislative front. Thus far, rumors about hearing dates for bills of interest have not become reality. This is likely due to the June primary, the Bond agree-

ment and the budget process, which has suddenly become more interesting due to increased revenues.

You can anticipate more information on specific legislation in the next issue of *The Reporter*. If you have not already signed up for our Listserv, it is important to do so if you want to keep informed about matters such as legislation. See Listserv article on page 6.

Much of the legislation, that has been introduced addresses technical matters, corrects errors or oversights or is of very limited effect. There are several bills with potential for improving

(See Legislative on page 9)

Dues

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The task force also recommended establishment of an e-mail system that will allow rapid delivery of messages from our computer to yours. Bob Kully and Linda Zimmerman responded quickly and the winter issue of *The Reporter* described the process for volunteering for this useful messaging system. If you haven't already done so, please help us to help you by making your e-mail address available. See Listserv article on page 6.

The other major goal was vast improvement of the CSU-ERFA Web site. Linda Zimmerman took the initiative for dramatic improvement of a Web site that had languished. To build upon this commendable progress the taskforce recommended and the State Council unanimously approved that CSU-ERFA recruit among retired faculty for Webmaster to expand and maintain the improvements already achieved.

With support in these areas, CSU-ERFA will be able to improve and increase our efforts to protect your interests.

Dues Structure

Gross Monthly Benefit

- Less than \$2,999
- \$3,000 — \$3,599
- \$3,600 — \$4,299
- \$4,300 — \$5,299
- \$5,300 — \$ 6,299
- \$6,300 and above

Donor Member

Dues

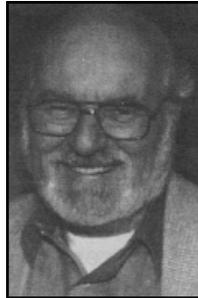
- \$4 per month
- \$6 per month
- \$7 per month
- \$8 per month
- \$9 per month
- \$10 per month
- ___ Amount per month

Note: Dues rates as shown above apply to new CSU-ERFA members. Current CSU-ERFA members are encouraged to authorize a change to their dues amount to reflect their current monthly benefit amount.

CFA: Bargaining and Lobbying Activities Continue

By H. Dieter Renning, Stanislaus CSU-ERFA liaison to CFA

CFA's activities continue to proceed along two tracks. In contract negotiations, one major breakthrough occurred in mid-April, when the two sides reached agreement on summer pay and employment conditions for CSU faculty.



Extension pay rates for teaching for-credit courses during the summer will be based on academic year faculty pay rates, and there will also be compensation for indirect instruction during summer. These provisions will be implemented immediately, even though the remainder of the contract is still being negotiated.

On all the other issues, however, bargaining continues to move at a very slow pace, according to Ed Purcell, CFA Director

of Representation, "The frustration level of our bargaining team is building."

One innovation in this bargaining round is the introduction of so-called facilitated discussions in which a few members of the bargaining teams talk about specific issues before they are formally addressed at the table. The Chancellor's Office hired Richard Barnes, former director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in the Clinton Administration and a long-time representative of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) to facilitate these talks, but it appears that so far they have not helped much, especially with regard to salary issues. It goes without saying that, given slow or no progress in this area, the CFA leadership and bargaining team did not find the recent appointment of the former CSU Chancellor, Barry Munitz, to a tenure-track position as a Trustee Professor at California State University Los Angeles "at a first year salary of \$163,776" to be a cause for elation.

Meanwhile, CFA officers, campus chapters and individual CFA members across the CSU system have been uncommonly active in lobbying legislators, demonstrating at public events (such as a recent fundraiser for the governor's reelection in Beverly Hills), and generating publicity, locally and statewide, about the condition of the CSU. Thus, on May 3, during CFA's statewide Lobby Day, more than 90 faculty members and 40 CSU students called on 111 state legislators in their Sacramento offices to update them on conditions at the CSU campuses, especially the need to increase CSU funding by 3 percent more than the governor had proposed for 2006/07. On the other hand, they expressed CFA support for the governor's proposed student fee buy-out for next year, while insisting on a moratorium on raises in fees until it has been determined how much of an impact the

(See Bargaining on page 10)

Legislative

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retiree access to health benefits and improving reciprocity for those participating in more than one retirement system. AB 2242 (Torrice) is sponsored by the Department of Personnel Administration and would extend the state's vision care plan to retirees. Presently, it does not apply to the State Universities, but this might change. No funding is included and annuitants would be required to pay a modest monthly premium (approximately \$13). This too may change.

As was the case last year, our primary focus is on legislation with potential for eroding, or possibly eliminating, the defined benefit program, which has served California so well for so long. Assembly member Richman has introduced ACA 23. This proposed Constitutional amendment would make very substantial reductions in retirement benefits

“Watching governmental matters of interest to our membership tends to be a two-part activity. Bills may take shape on the initiative of individual members of the legislature, administrative sponsorship and, for us in particular, at the request of CalPERS.”

available to persons beginning state service in the future. It would also permit, but not require, supplemental defined contribution programs. Thus far, this bill has not had a substantive hearing. No hearing date is scheduled, but it is unlikely to be heard before June.

Constitutional amendments require a 2/3 vote in both houses and passage is unlikely. That should not cause anyone to breathe a sigh of relief. It is very likely that an Initiative Petition campaign will follow. Let's not wait for that to happen to begin to engage friends and

colleagues in discussion to help them understand why what was so good for us remains good for future retirees and for the State of California.

As I learn the details of my Legislative responsibilities, I want to do the best possible job of keeping our membership informed. In addition to welcoming particular inquiries from any member, discussions are underway which are likely to lead to regular on line reports and special alerts where circumstances dictate. Your suggestions are welcome.

Bargaining

Continued from page 9

fee increases since 2002 have had on student's access to the CSU.

Lobby Day was also used as an opportunity for some 250 CSU faculty, staff members and students to gather outside the Sacramento headquarters of the California Business Roundtable, to deliver a message "by waving large red signs with a grade of F on them" to its President, CSU Trustee Bill Hauck. For some time now CFA has criticized Hauck, who is considered the most influential member of the Board of Trustees, for neglecting his duties as a spokesman for the CSU and for taking a number of anti-faculty positions, such as advocating the abolition of tenure and of the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP). He has also been the chief advocate for student fee increases and was one of the most outspoken supporters of last fall 99s Proposition 76. (The latest news about Hauck: He has

just become chair of the Trustees' bargaining committee!). There will be a similar action at the California Business Roundtable's 30th anniversary luncheon on May 25

"The CSU budget continues to be a primary concern, and in CFA's view the governor's May Revise was a big disappointment."

in Beverly Hills.

The CSU budget continues to be a primary concern, and in CFA's view the governor's May Revise was a big disappointment. It provides for only half - \$76 million - of the increase

CFA has sought, after the serious cuts of previous years. Compared with proposed funding for public schools and community colleges for the current year and for 2006/07, the treatment of the CSU budget is considered grossly unfair and inadequate in other words; there is more cause for lobbying by CFA and its allies in Sacramento.

Bargaining, the CSU budget, action (or inaction) by the CSU administration and the Trustees, etc., were, of course, among the themes which the CFA Assembly addressed in April. Also at that meeting, Phil Angelides spoke to the Assembly, which reaffirmed CFA's endorsement of him for governor. And the Assembly instituted an important organizational change, by replacing CFA's Affirmative Action Committee with a CFA Council for Affirmative Action. This is modeled after the CFA's Lecturers' Council and consisting of Affirmative Action delegates from all the chapters.

For more information, log on to www.calfac.org.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - EMERITUS AND RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION

The Retiree Center
18111 Nordhoff St.
Northridge, CA 91330-8339

Have you moved? If so, please report your new address to CSU-ERFA office at the above address.

Address service requested

