



California State University Employees Union (CSUEU), SEIU 2579/CSEA

April 2, 2018

To: Senator Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Budget Committee
Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education
Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education

Fr: Kim Harrington, Chair, Legislative Committee
David Balla-Hawkins, Legislative Director

Re: 2018-19 CSU Budget Augmentation Request – \$75 Million
Employee and Student Health and Safety

The CSU Employees Union (CSUEU) represents over 15,000 employees that support and oversee the academics and operations of the California State University, including information technology, healthcare, campus operations, clerical, administrative support and custodial. CSUEU is seeking an augmentation to the 2018-19 CSU budget to protect the health and safety of our employees and students, and to address the CSU's failure to request funding for this purpose.

CSUEU is requesting an augmentation of \$75 million for increased staffing and infrastructure for CSU health and safety regulatory programs. Areas of expenditures include positions for employee classifications affecting biosafety, laboratories, and chemical hygiene. Infrastructure expenditures include, but are not limited to, storage facilities, employee and student personal safety equipment and ventilation. This funding shall not be used to pay for existing or additional management and supervisory positions.

In April 2018, the State Auditor will release its comprehensive audit of the CSU's health and safety practices. The CSUEU-requested audit authored by Assemblymember Jim Wood is in response to disturbing trends that threaten the health and safety of CSU employees and students.

- At CSU Sacramento, a 10-month delay occurred before the campus community was notified of lead in the drinking water. Staff were also directed to clean-up a hazardous chemical spill without proper protective gear. Employees involved in the clean-up subsequently reported severe and catastrophic health problems.
- At Sonoma State University, a former employee and certified asbestos consultant was subjected to repeated harassment and retaliation for reporting the presence of asbestos. A jury awarded him \$387,895 in lost compensation and damages, and found the employee's supervisor and the CSU Board of Trustees both liable.
- An informal survey conducted by CSUEU revealed employees working in hazardous conditions on a number of CSU campuses, including constant exposure to toxic fumes. It also determined that campus health and safety issues lacked proper oversight or consistent protocols to protect employees and students.

This budget augmentation will help to address the failure of the CSU to properly oversee, monitor and regulate campuses without adversely compromising the health and safety of CSU employees and students.