

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942949
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249 0044
(916) 319 2044
FAX (916) 319 2144

Assembly California Legislature



DISTRICT OFFICE
215 N MARIENCO AVENUE
SUITE 118
PASADENA, CA 91101
(626) 577-8844
FAX (626) 577-2868

ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

STANDING COMMITTEES
CHAIR, HIGHER EDUCATION
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
PUBLIC SAFETY
TRANSPORTATION

October 29, 2008

Dr. Charles B. Reed, Chancellor
California State University
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Chancellor Reed:

It has recently been brought to my attention that the contract between California State University (CSU) and the Academic Student Employees (ASEs) represented by the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 4123 expires on October 31, 2008. It is my understanding that including a fee waiver benefit is one of the few issues remaining that stands in the way of approving a new contract and that negotiations are postponed until bargaining agreements with other CSU employee unions have been resolved. I strongly urge you to give prompt attention to this matter and negotiate a new contract that includes a fee waiver benefit for ASEs.

ASEs provide much of the critical face-to-face education that makes CSU such a great University system. Despite their valuable contribution to the mission of the University, ASEs took a 7% wage cut when fees increased this year. Without a fee waiver, the average ASE earns a mere \$1.80 an hour, after paying student fees. Wage cuts force academic student employees to take on second or third jobs, drop classes and even drop out of school if they can't make ends meet. This has a devastating impact on access to and the overall quality of education at the CSU, especially as these fee increases disproportionately affect student employees from underrepresented student groups and the students they serve.

I trust you will give serious consideration to adopting a fairly negotiated student fee waiver as part of the ASE/UAW Local 4123 contract. Thank you for your prompt attentions to this matter.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO
Assemblymember, 44th District

AJP:eg
1.7

Representing Cities

Altadena, Arcadia, Duarte, East Pasadena, La Canada Flintridge, Los Angeles, Mayflower Village, Monrovia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, and Temple City



Printed on Recycled Paper