



California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
AFT Guild, San Diego and Grossmont-Cuyamaca
Community Colleges

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San Diego Community College Students Stage First-Ever “Ramen-In” Protesting Fee Hikes

Call for Wealthy to Pay Fair Share of Taxes

SAN DIEGO - San Diego Community college students today staged the first-ever “Ramen-in” at Governor Brown’s former San Diego office. Students, faculty and their supporters protested the \$300 fee increase the governor has proposed (\$10 per unit for 30 units, a normal academic year’s load). “The \$300 fee hike will come from students’ budget for food and other necessities. We will be eating Ramen for breakfast, lunch and dinner,” said San Diego City College student Jose Rodriguez. “Hundreds of students delivered thousands of packages of Ramen to the governor’s former offices to show the impact of this huge fee increase.”

"On a campus like San Diego City College, it is clear that the fee increases will push many of our students out of higher education altogether. It is devastating to think that we spend more on prisons than on education in this state. With one of the worst wealth distributions we have seen in the US since the Great Depression it is unconscionable that we would cut something as vital to democracy as education. The top 1% in California is getting \$9 billion from the extension of the Bush tax cuts while students are forced to pay a poverty tax to help balance the budget. That fee increase goes to the general fund, not the community college system: students will literally be paying more for less," said Larissa Dorman, a member of the San Diego City College faculty.

“The proposed State Budget continues to threaten the future of California by reducing our investment in public education and the students who will lead our state in the coming years. We recognize that Governor Brown inherited a dreadful

state fiscal situation, and applaud his honest attempt to cast aside gimmicks and smokescreens," said Marty Hittelman, CFT president. "The proposed fee increases represent a tax on community college students, many of whom are already stretched to the limit in the recession to stay in school. This is a tax on the wrong people. At least \$4.3 billion more will be cut from education in the coming year, on top of \$18 billion in cuts over the past few years. In addition to the state's lack of investment, our schools will lose \$3 billion in federal funding. Yet, when Congress passed its extension of the Bush tax cuts in December, the richest top one percent of Californians pocketed an extra \$9 billion per year. The California state budget deficit is \$18 billion. The tax cut for billionaires and millionaires would solve half our state budget deficit."

The protesters called for passage of AB 1239 (Furutani), that would increase income taxes on those who make more than a quarter million dollars a year. A temporary 10% income tax bracket would be established for those making over \$250,000, and an 11% tax bracket for those with taxable incomes over \$400,000. These tax brackets are similar to those established by former Governor Wilson, and would expire after 5 years.

Similar protests are planned for Los Angeles and San Francisco on Friday.

For more information visit www.cft.org

For more information on community college students' efforts to keep education accessible and affordable, please visit <http://www.standup4cc.com/>