

CFA Communications
communications@calfac.org

30 November 2023

Dear California Faculty Association,

As a Founding Member of the Open Information Collective, a public records, government transparency, and open meetings organization that does a lot of work at California State University campuses, I am pleased to say that the Open Information Collective stands with the California Faculty Association in its current contract fight against the California State University.

Typically, the OIC does not get involved with the affairs and actions of other organizations; we simply provide the public service of investigating government agencies, and retrieving public records, to all members of the public and public-service organizations. However, with the current situation between the California State University and the California Faculty Association, we cannot maintain such a stance.

The CSU has been one of the greatest violators of government transparency laws, as well as fair collective bargaining laws, in the entire State of California. After the September Board of Trustees meeting, and the CSU's refusal to admit to violations of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the OIC was forced to take protective action at the November Board of Trustees meeting, where it won the right for all - speakers and non-speakers, students and members of the public - to access a meeting they were being illegally restricted from entering and speaking at.

Recent CSU unfair labor practices largely share the same character. Emails sent out to faculty scaring them away from solidarity strikes are delivered with the same contempt for California law and the California Constitution as the CSU's communications with the OIC. The attempts to violate HEERA, and to scare employees away from exercising their rights, are largely in line

From the desk of the Open Information Collective

"Without publicity, no good is permanent; under the auspices of publicity, no evil can continue."

F.M. Amy Parker, A.A.

F.M. Monica Hanson

S.M. Fain Arquieta

with what the OIC has experienced when seeking records from the CSU, where we've had significant amounts of illegal actions and declarations against us. Just as the CSU refuses to negotiate with CFA, they have refused most of our interrogatories concerning their illegal conduct.

The CSU has repeatedly claimed that CFA getting a fair contract, or engaging in concerted activity, would hurt the students. We both know that these statements are entirely false. In CFA's case, teachers cannot do their best work for their students when they are having to sleep in their cars, and when their rights are violated on a daily basis by the CSU. The CSU has also made similar claims against the work of the OIC, saying that records that are undeniably disclosable should not be disclosed because they don't "serve the public" - while failing to define how, or who the public they consider truly is.

The Open Information Collective stands in solidarity with CFA and with CSU faculty and staff as they fight for their right to engage in strikes and other legal concerted activity.

Sincerely,

Amy Parker, A.A.

she/her/hers

(562) 299-8551

amyipdev@csu.fullerton.edu