



Los Angeles College Faculty Guild – Talking Points

- 1. Fully Fund Proposition 98 for the 2022-23 fiscal year:** Our colleges have already committed and/or spent all of the funding provided with the 2022-23 fiscal year. Contracts have been signed and commitments have been made. To go back into and “open” funding for that fiscal year to make potential cuts would be extremely difficult and harmful to our members and institutions. We have worked with the administration of the district to use funding that was allocated to provide outreach to students in our region and increase access, affordability, and success efforts for our students.
- 2. Ensure Full Funding of the 2023-24 Cost-of-Living-Adjustments:** Last year, the state approved an 8.22% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for K-12 schools and community colleges. Our organization entered into good-faith bargaining based on the final version of the budget that included this level of COLA. The state should recognize that agreements have been made based on the state’s budget agreement and, if necessary, the state ought to use some reserves to ensure that the 2023-24 COLA is fully funded.
- 3. Fund a Cost-of-Living Adjustment for 2024-25:** Unlike K-12 schools, when a COLA is not funded for community colleges, there is no guarantee that the funding will be made up in future years. While currently calculated to be small, the COLA ensures that rising costs at least may be partially addressed in the future years. The COLA not only helps address step and column increases for our members, but also goes toward the general operations of our colleges which ensure access and success for our students.
- 4. Support Budget Request for Statewide Academic Senate Climate Curriculum:** We have been working with the statewide Academic Senate on a \$5 million budget proposal that would provide for funding for the statewide Academic Senate to develop climate change literacy programs that could be imbedded in community college curriculum. The request would create a statewide pilot framework within the first year that colleges could use to further climate literacy for students attending community colleges.
- 5. Support AB 2093 (Santiago) – Free Community College BA Degree:** We support AB 2093 (Santiago) which would create a pathway for a free baccalaureate degree for community college students. This bill would address both the college affordability crisis and the baccalaureate degree attainment goals of the state. The bill would allow a community college student to matriculate from community college lower-division coursework to a community college baccalaureate degree program fee-free. It would help to alleviate the college debt crisis by giving California students a path to a free baccalaureate degree.



6. **Support SB 252 (Gonzalez) – Divestment from Fossil Fuels:** We support SB 252 (Gonzalez) which would require the state retirement funds to divest in the 200 largest fossil fuel companies. CalSTRS and CalPERS have almost 9 billion invested in fossil fuel producers. A Corporate Knights study found that between 2009 and 2019 if CalPERS and CalSTRS had divested they would have gained \$11.9 and \$5.5 billion respectively. During the past seven years, the fossil fuel sector had the highest risk of all sectors, and was the only sector to lose value. Divestment is entirely consistent with CalSTRS' and CalPERS' missions and fiduciary duties.