

MARCH ON SACRAMENTO JAN. 18

LOWER F.T.E. MORE JOBS

Most of us have examples of how hard it is to get through SDSU these days. Long lines, closed classes, and shrinking financial aid make it difficult to stay in school. The situation is made even more impossible by the high unemployment rate. Unemployment in San Diego hovers around 10%, one of the highest in the nation. Real unemployment is probably close to twice that if you count young people, housewives, welfare clients, and those on disability who are officially not in the labor force. For minority workers and students the figure is approximately double that of the rest of the population. Among minority youth, according to the latest Business Week, the unemployment rate is close to 40%, a depression level. Not only are jobs hard to find now, but the chances are slim for the jobs that we have trained 4-5 years to get. 2000 unemployed teachers in San Diego County does not imply a bright job market.

Fight to Lower the Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

As more students are being forced to work while going to school, we are increasingly being penalized by the Board of Trustee's policy of defining a full-time student as one who takes 15 units. For all budgeting purposes, the administration adjusts the enrollment of a campus to a number which represents what the enrollment would be if each student were taking 15 units (Full Time Equivalent- FTE). For example, at SDSU this fall 30,500 registered for classes. Not all of these students registered for 15 units. In fact the average unit load was 11.37. If you divided the total number of units that students registered for by 15, you would get 23,171.6 (Figures from report by Campus Information Systems). In other words, the 30,500 students at SDSU are taking as many courses as 23,171 students would who were taking 15 units each. This 23,171 figure is used to calculate everything from the number of faculty, to the number of doctors in the health center, to the number of staff in the financial aids office. Such a system guarantees that services on campus are deficient for the 30,500 that really need them. Because of the economic crisis more students are forced to work. As a result, the average unit load state-wide has dropped to 11.5 from 12.4 last year. More students carrying less units is being used as a justification to cut back programs, at a time when we need more courses at different hours to accomodate working students.

The way to turn this situation around is to lower the FTE to 12 units. Not only does this reflect the real amount of units that students take, but it would lead to an increase in instructional and student services. If the FTE were lowered to 12, SDSU would be budgeted for 28,964 FTE, an increase of 5,800 over the present figure. This increase would mean hiring 323 more faculty (at current student-faculty ratios) and add 7.5 more doctors to the health services staff.

A few weeks ago 350 workers representing industries including hospitals, auto, telephone, and teaching met at a West Coast convention of Workers Action Movement. One of the major topics discussed was the disastrous unemployment situation. Many workers who attended the convention are facing the possibility of being layed off. Part of their response to this crisis situation was to call for a demonstration for more jobs in Sacramento on January 18th, just following Inauguration Day. Since that call others have joined in a coalition to raise key issues to the new Brown administration, including secret ballot elections for farmworkers.

Students need to join in this movement. We need more jobs both now and when we get out of school. Also, the demonstration could be the kick-off for a statewide movement to lower F.T.E. and stop financial aid cuts. To get the demand of lower F.T.E. presented as strongly as possible, student governments and other student organizations need to organize all the State Colleges to bring 1,000's of students to Sacramento. Already the Associated Students Board of Directors at Cal State Los Angeles has voted to endorse the march. We will be asking the Student Council at SDSU to do the same. You can help build the movement to fight cuts by coming to the A.S. Council meetings to support endorsement of the march. You can ask any organization you belong to is they would support the march. Most importantly, buy bus tickets for yourself and your friends to come to Sacramento to fight for more jobs, more financial aid, and a cut in FTE.

A.S. COUNCIL MEETINGS

- TUES, NOV. 26, 5:00 P.M.**
- WEDS, DEC. 4, 3:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

BUS INFO : 286-7379

**BY MEMBERS OF A.S. COMMITTEE
ON FINANCIAL AID**

**MEETINGS : WED, 9:00 A.M. CONF. RM. B
AZTEC CENTER**