

# California's possible new plan for higher education

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seem insignificant when compared to what the rest of higher education will achieve if this piece of legislation is passed in Sacramento. However, the totality of the economic free fall has already hit this campus.

Ohlone has a current monetary deficit of \$700,000, to which the only ideas by our administration regarding generating money have been furlough days, pay cuts and layoffs. Salaries and subsequent retirement benefits constitute 85 percent of Ohlone's expenditures.

Last week, there were discussions that the Transfer Center would be eliminated and marginalized to be self-serve only. And the ASOC fought back in retaliation by collecting signatures from the student body during their annual Thanksgiving

feast as well as in classes. They opted to get involved and fight as the voice of the student populace

The Board of Trustees also postponed their decision to lay off six members of the California School Employees Association (CSEA) at their last meeting until they gather on Dec 9.

The student populace has been negatively impacted by the increasing financial quandary that is not being solved by the status quo system of higher education.

California's governor Arnold Schwarzenegger hiked the tuition cost for community college students from \$20 to \$26 per unit prior to the start of fall semester and the University of California's Board of Regents passed a 32 percent tuition rate hike.

Over 100 classes were cut from

the Ohlone curriculum, which leads to an intense strain on the college's resources.

The pre existing law of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education created the CSU and UC system under the principle that admission would be granted to any eligible California student that meets the academic institution's standards.

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, California will fall 1 million college graduates short of its needs by 2025.

AB 656's downside is that it does in fact establish a broader framework for more bureaucracy dictating how money is distributed for higher education through the California Higher Education Endowment Corporation, which will be overseen by an 11-member board of representatives.

The state is planning on addressing the issue of K-12 education in a special session this month. And Torrico is trying to fast-track AB 656, which is already scheduled to go before the State Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee in January.

"These colleges and universities are a driving force behind the California economy. They educate and train our workforce, pull in millions in research grants and provide our state with a terrific return on our investment. But if we continue with the status quo approach of endless

budget cuts and fee increases, hundreds of thousands of students will be turned away. We cannot expect to have a vibrant economy if we spend more on prisons than we do universities," Torrico said.

AB 656 does not solve for the inherent status quo, whether or not it is fast-tracked into passing.

However, it would alleviate some of the burden that has been felt by students as well as faculty statewide. Torrico's bill is not the be all end all ultimate solution. Although, at this juncture it is the only plausible answer.

## Not so domestic tranquility

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is a better future for our children and grandchildren. And we believe that their lives will be better if other peoples' children and grandchildren can live in freedom and access opportunity."

The Obama administration's strategy in Afghanistan reeks of the undertones of nation-building a nation that has its fair share of additional problems, due to our prolonged military presence.

Afghanistan bears a faint resemblance to the Vietnamese conflict. And some of the analysis of that war can be cross-applied to this one.

American foreign policy rests on the concept of domestic tranquility.

It is the ideal that we must contain any system that is not a form of free market capitalism democracy and roll back such systems.

Domestic tranquility was inherently backed through the Eisenhower Doctrine, which established that the West will support any nation that supports us and our core belief system. This later went on to become the foundation for N.A.T.O.

Obama said, "This is an international effort, I have asked that our commitment be joined by contributions from our allies. Some have already provided additional troops, and we are confident that there will be further contributions in the days and weeks ahead.

Our friends have fought and bled and died alongside us in Afghanistan. Now, we must come together to end this war successfully. For what's at stake is not simply a test of NATO's credibility what's at stake is the security of our Allies and the common security of the world."

Obama unlike his predecessor is notorious for being a uniter as opposed to a divider. And his Tuesday night address was an attempt to be a means of appeasement to all sides.

Fourteen Republicans in the House of Representatives wrote, "For over two months you have

been engaged in a strategy review that has left the country, our military, and allies uncertain about your commitment to the war in Afghanistan and unsure about your will to do what is necessary to win this conflict. Worse, we fear the process has emboldened our enemies.

It is long overdue for our military to be in the execution stage of the strategy instead of the evaluation phase. Now is the time where the country needs your leadership."

Obama concluded by utilizing the soaring prose of hope and unity that he is famous for. The idea that he serves us and our united national interest.

Obama said, "Since the days of Franklin Roosevelt and the service

and sacrifice of our grandparents, our country has borne a special burden in global affairs. We have spilled American blood in many countries on multiple continents. We have spent our revenue to help others rebuild from rubble and develop their own economies. We have joined with others to develop an architecture of institutions from the United Nations to NATO to the World Bank that provide for the common security and prosperity of human beings."

Eighteen months with 30,000 new troops is a starting point. It is not a solution to a regional international quandary that needs to be addressed with a greater perview of scope and vision.

## Holiday cramming

By **JEFF WEISINGER**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

With finals just around the corner (Dec. 14-18), Campus Activities and LISTO (Latinos in Science and Technology at Ohlone) came up with a way for Ohlone students to relax while studying for their finals.

Cookies, Cocoa and Cram will turn the cafeteria into a giant study hall on Dec. 8-9 from 4-7 p.m.

Students will be able to study in groups, helping each other with questions and promoting teamwork.

There will also be space for students to study on their own.

And, as advertised, there will be free cookies and hot cocoa.

Along with the many students expected to study for their multiple finals, faculty will also be available for help, this way the students can utilize both their peers and the teachers as support.

So if you're stressing about the three to five finals you have to take, and are having trouble studying, check out the Cookies, Cocoa and Cram on Dec. 8-9 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the cafeteria.

**Hey Students...**

Confused about auto insurance? Get a free guide and quote from AAA. Find out how to get a \$10 gas card when we provide you with an insurance quote.

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**(510)-360-3345**  
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