

Steps Bill AB 369 “On Hold”: What’s Next?

Why have we agreed to hold AB 369?

For the past year, we have been working closely with the new governor and his administration. Many in the governor’s office believe they can make the CSU accountable for its actions. In our final assessment, CSUEU decided – along with the bill’s author Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber and co-sponsors SEIU State Council and Teamsters, AFL-CIO – to support Governor Newsom in his efforts and give the CSU a final opportunity to correct our salary disparities. CSUEU begins bargaining a new contract in January 2020.

Does delaying AB 369 mean our bill is dead?

Absolutely not! If the CSU is unreasonable in its negotiations, or unwilling to negotiate in good faith, AB 369 will remain one step away from the governor’s desk and can be voted on at any time from January through September 2020.

What did CSUEU give up in exchange for the governor’s help?

Nothing at all, other than placing AB 369 on hold while we negotiate our contract. With AB 369 still very much a viable option that could be triggered at any time, the CSU enters negotiations forced to do their utmost to demonstrate a willingness to reach a mutually agreeable and fair contract with support staff.

Is holding AB 369 a setback for employees?

No. In fact, for the last 23 years since the CSU unilaterally withheld merit pay from support staff, the University has refused to discuss salary steps during contract negotiations. We believe they are motivated now.

What do we gain from this decision?

For agreeing to place AB 369 on hold, the governor’s office will oversee our contract negotiations with the CSU and a governor’s representative will participate in our bargaining sessions on matters needing an appropriation or legislative action. With the governor’s active involvement and our members’ activism, we are confident the CSU will be held accountable if it fails to meet and negotiate in good faith.

What do we do in the meantime?

As CSUEU prepares to negotiate a new contract, our members will be called on to take escalating actions to ensure salary steps are restored, and working conditions are improved, across all campuses for all workers. Just as we collectively came together to advocate for AB 369, we must mobilize to apply pressure on the CSU. CSUEU’s accomplishments – including three state audits and overwhelming bipartisan support from legislators – will support and strengthen our contract negotiations.

One more thing ...

For a union our size, it is more than unusual for a governor to want to intervene on our behalf. It is also unusual for a governor to take such an interest in a bill that is just one of hundreds sitting on his desk. We have also gained Lt. Governor and CSU Trustee Eleni Kounalakis’ support for salary steps. These are the strongest signs we have ever received from our state’s political leaders in our efforts to expose the CSU’s unjust treatment of support staff. We have momentum and need to keep building it. Remember to show union strength by RENEWING your membership or JOINING CSUEU if you are not yet a member. www.csueu.org.