

**CSU Budget Advocacy Hour
Monday, March 10, 2008
Arts 111
1:00 – 2:00pm
President Karen S. Haynes**

Good afternoon, and thank you for coming to this Budget Advocacy Hour.

While Cal State San Marcos has never held a CSU Budget Advocacy Hour before, the fiscal situation in the State of California has rarely seen a budget proposal like this year's across-the-board 10% cuts to every agency, regardless of size, purpose, effectiveness, or need.

We have advocated on behalf of the CSU and its state budget before. In fact, nearly every year of Cal State San Marcos' existence has seen the CFA and CSUEA in Sacramento to articulate the need to grow and fund this campus. Nearly every year, our students—through the CSSA, the California State Student Association—have taken on what can be a fairly daunting task—of going to Sacramento and asking legislators to take their educational needs—and its costs—seriously.

And every year, I go to Sacramento with the Director of Legislative Affairs, alumni, and community supporters of higher education to advocate of behalf of our campus budget, and also to promote an educated workforce as part of the solution to California's budget problems—not as the cause of those problems.

But this is not just another one of those years, and it is not just another one of those budgets. And so we are asking all of you—our own faculty and staff, administrators, students, alumni and friends—to come together and help advocate for the CSU.

I think you will hear how, working together, we can work for California, and continue to keep the doors open to a high quality, affordable education.

Before I was a university president, I was a Dean of a School of Social Work. And before that, I was a social worker.

But I have always been an advocate and educator on advocacy. The first, and most important, message I try to get across to people is: doing

nothing is a political act. Think about it: doing nothing is a political act. When it comes to the CSU and funding its mission of access and affordability, you can choose to do nothing. Advocacy isn't for wimps. Or you can choose to do something.

Today we've come together to talk about what we can do to tell the state what matters to its future.

And the political action you choose will reflect what matters to you. As I write in my book about how and why to advocate, "Advocacy isn't for wimps." Look at the materials and sign up options, and think about what you want your action to be.

Our hour is up – but our advocacy work together is just beginning to kick into gear. Thank you!