

ERFA POSTSCRIPTS

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Spring Luncheon, March 26, 2020

Provost Inch announced that the CSU Board of Trustees will announce the new President for the campus at its May 13, 2020 meeting. The Provost also announced the following: (i) 4-year graduation rates will decline this year to 12.1% from 16.6% last year, (ii) 6-year graduation rates will rise this year to 49.7% from 48.2% last year, (iii) 2-year transfer rates have declined to 39.7% this year from 43.9% last year, and (iv) the 4-year transfer rate holds steady at 74.7% this year.

Statewide Academic Senate Chair, Dr. Catherine Nelson of Sonoma State, was on campus and spoke at Senate. Among other things, she urged CSUEB to get involved with supporting passage of AB1460, the Ethnic Studies requirement for graduation, arguing, "If we do this ourselves, then we as faculty have more control over what is done."

Dr. Rachel Stryker, CFA President, announced help for faculty affected by the power outages, including faculty being paid for taking time off when a natural disaster prevents their going to work, even if the campus is open. She also encouraged faculty to donate unused leave time to those who may be in need.

At the November 12, 2019 meeting, President Morishita announced that a "listening session" would be held the following day for faculty to express their view on what qualities they expect in the new Chancellor. The "listening session" for the campus President will be held on January 31, 2020. The search process for the Chancellor will end with the Board of Trustees' meeting in March 2020. That for our campus will be in May. Also, CSUEB is negotiating with Elsevier Publishers for reduced rates for "Open Access" publishing in their journals.

At the December 3, 2019 meeting, President Morishita announced that the campus had exceeded its fund-raising goal of \$60 million. The amount raised was \$74 million, of which 12% came from the faculty, according to Provost Inch. Dr. Lee announced that CIC is working to find relief for students who have to take 3 to 5 final exams on the same day under the new exam schedule. CFA President, Rachel Stryker, announced that contract negotiations will start in Spring 2020, and may take up to two years. With events in Hong Kong at the background and some debate, Senate passed a resolution in "Support of the Faculty, Staff, and Student Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech and Amnesty International Condemnation of Police Violence against Students and Protestors."

James Ahiakpor, Professor Emeritus, Department of Economics



Required Minimum Distribution

There are two recent developments concerning required minimum distributions (RMD) from IRAs and defined-contribution (DC) retirement plans, mainly 401(k), 403(b) and 457(b) plans. The CSU sponsors all three. The first is the Saving Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act. Talk about starting with an acronym and then search for a title! The other is the proposed update of the tables used to calculate RMDs.

SECURE Act. The SECURE Act passed overwhelmingly in the House but was hung up in the Senate by three senators who declined to support the fast-track passage. Subsequently, the bill became Division O of the 'must-pass' Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 which was signed into

law on December 21, 2019. Many of the SECURE Act provisions took effect almost immediately on January 1, 2020.

Actually, it is worse than that. Many account owners (and their spouse), especially those of us blessed with a generous CalPERS pension, will bequeath IRAs and DC plans to our heirs. However, that would get us into a whole other area of RMDs that I won't bore you with. That's our kids' problem.

Implementation. By an interesting coincidence, the long planned and then delayed SECURE Act and the currently-proposed life-expectancy tables will take effect almost simultaneously. The main provisions of the SECURE Act took effect on 1/1/20. Others kicked in by 1/1/22. Meanwhile, the proposed life-expectancy tables will be effective on 1/1/21. These overlapping dates will cause some confusion among participants, sponsors and plan administrators.

Another implementation concern is that life-expectancy tables are now to be updated annually. Life-expectancy data do not change that much from year to year. Requiring miniscule changes up or down every year will result in a great deal of unnecessary cost and bother. It would be more sensible to update the tables every five or 10 years.

John G. Kilgour, CSUEB/ERFSA



Editorial by the Editor

Part one: T

How do I tone this down to make it acceptable to academic readers, with our culture of tolerance and mild-mannered whatever? I'm trying to make a straight-forward objective description of national Republicanism but it comes out inflammatory because the reality is inflammatory. We really are not used to this, even after three plus years, each abuse somehow comes as a combination of dreadful expectation and surprise.

"Psychologists and commentators from all ideological camps early converged on a label of narcissistic personality disorder as the condition that "explains" Trump's behavior. Among those making this assertion are more than 70,000 mental health professionals who signed a petition warning of Trump's potential dangerousness, despite longstanding professional injunctions against "diagnosing" public figures whom experts have not personally examined." <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/president-donald-trump>. Such people live in their own created reality and can only be controlled from outside.

Susan B. Glasser, "Our Year of Trumpschmerz," , December 30, 2019, edited excerpts and paraphrase for brevity (bolding mine):

The President of the United States is saying crazy, mean, inappropriate things at all hours of the day and night.

personally ordering Canadian television to cut a seven-second snippet of the schmaltzy Christmas movie "Home Alone 2" that features Trump, an accusation the President refused to retract, although it was quickly proved that the scene was one of many edited out as a time-saver back in 2014, long before either Trudeau or Trump was anywhere close to power.

Even now, three years into the Trump Presidency, there is no language to fully capture the madness of all this despite my colleagues going to great lengths to record just how disturbingly nutty 2019 has been. The Washington reports that Trump ended the year having made more than fifteen thousand four hundred false and misleading statements since his inauguration. CNN's "Inside Politics" produced a four-page, single-spaced list of all the people and institutions Trump has attacked by name this year. There are online trackers for the unprecedented levels of turnover in Trump's Administration and for the rapidly proliferating array of lawsuits involving Trump's assertions of sweeping executive authority. Trump began 2019 by causing the longest-ever federal [government shutdown](#) in history, after Congress refused to spend billions on his proposed border wall, and ended it as only the third President in history to be [impeached](#) by the House of Representatives.

This year saw rants at rallies about the evils of windmills and modern toilets, brags that he and North Korea's homicidal dictator "fell in love," repeats of Russian propaganda from the Oval Office, and issues major national-security decisions by fiat on Twitter without informing the Pentagon, State Department, or his own staff.

-end of edited quote-

I am conflicted over what to be most appalled about: the ignorant and dangerous demagogue in the White House, a Senate enthralled to the point of violating all Republican principles, a minority of voters so ignorant it supports its own destruction to have its pathetic ignorance, chauvinism, and bigotry stroked by a grifter. Not my America.

The federal judiciary is becoming controlled by a President hostile to any restraint on his power, including a third term. He said his followers would stay loyal to him even if he shot someone in the middle of Fifth Avenue. Hitler said about the same. I refer here to the small Nazis minority before they took power. A relatively stable forty per cent of the American public continues to approve of Trump. But of course, it can't happen here, right? Maybe he was kidding, just a joke? Maybe.

I have a little list: endless tweetstorms of attacks on imagined enemies, torrents of lies; erosion of the basic functions of government; the unimaginable assault on our institutions; the hollowing out of the State Department, the politicization of the intelligence serv.†e3(s)-7()4(c)3(on)-7t359.33 Tm0 g0e0.00

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