Anthropology Department Pledge to Refuse Spring Appointments
17 February 2020

On Friday, February 14th, UC management further escalated their threats of retaliation against graduate students for participating in a labor action. UC President Janet Napolitano explicitly threatened “termination of existing employment at the University,” while UCSC Interim Executive Vice Chancellor Lori Kletzer further threatened that all TAs who do not submit fall quarter grades by Friday, February 21st will not receive a spring quarter TA appointment.

These threats are an affront to faculty rights, graduate and undergraduate education, and the future of our department. We will not stand by idly when our fellow graduate students at UCSC are threatened with a loss of employment, ability to feed themselves and their families, and the likely loss of ability to continue in a graduate program, for demanding nothing more than to be relieved of extreme rent burden so that they can focus on the university’s academic missions of excellence in teaching and research.

Therefore, in order to protect our colleagues and our department, we the undersigned Anthropology Graduate Students pledge that in the event of mass firings due to participation in the COLA strike, we will refuse to accept Spring Quarter TA/GSI appointments. We will not accept positions made available by the firing of our friends and colleagues. Alternatively, we invite the university to negotiate in good faith to bring this strike to an end.

The University works because we do! Solidarity forever!

Sincerely,

Joseph Klein
Karli S. DeRego
Natalie Ng
Lachlan Summers
Avi Conant
Caroline Kao
Suraiya Jetha
shah noor hussein
Renee D. Boucher
Kathryn Gougelet
Jessica Madison Pískatá
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kalina kassadjikova
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Kirsten Keller
Brenda Arjona
Rob Davenport
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