Arts Division Pledge to Refuse Spring Appointments
Fri, Feb 21, 2020

Arts Division Pledge to Refuse Spring Appointments

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 and GSIs who do not submit fall quarter grades by Friday, February 21st will not receive a spring quarter TA or GSI appointment.

To be clear, Napolitano and Kletzer are threatening to fire graduate student workers en masse for asking to be paid enough to live where they work. These threats are an affront to faculty rights, graduate and undergraduate education, and the future of our department. We will not stand by when our fellow workers at UCSC are threatened with a loss of employment, ability to feed themselves and their families, and 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 in the Arts Division pledge: if any UC Santa Cruz graduate student worker is fired from their current winter quarter TA/GSI position or is prevented from taking a spring quarter TA/GSI position due to their participation in the COLA strike, which may have included the withholding of fall grades or the engaging in the full strike which began on February 10th, we will refuse to accept any TAship, readership, or GSIsip position that has been opened in their absence and/or will not accept our spring quarter TA/GSI appointments.

Finally, we ask that the university negotiate in good faith to bring this strike to an end.

In solidarity,

Madison Treece, HAVC
Susanna Collinson, HAVC
Alexandra Macheski, HAVC
Jazmin Benton, HAVC
Lorraine Affourtit, HAVC
Chessa Adsit-Morris, HAVC
Kris Timken, HAVC
Matthew Tedford, HAVC
Alex Moore, HAVC
Axelle Toussaint, HAVC
Maggie Wander, HAVC
Leslie Lodwick, HAVC
Christina Ayson-Plank, HAVC
Kate Korroch, HAVC
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Elia Vargas, FDM
Sarah Bird, FDM
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