BME pledge to refuse TAships vacated by terminated graduate students

Fri, Feb 21, 2020 at 2:16 PM

Dear BME Department and Graduate Department Chairs,

We reject the notion that our fellow workers at UCSC should be 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 expressing and acting on the undeniable fact that we are not paid a living wage.

We reject the notion that it is impossible for us and our colleagues to be relieved of the extreme rent burden we face, so that we 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 BME pledge that:

- If any BME 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, we will refuse to accept any TAship, readership, or GSIship position that has been opened in their absence.
- We also, in solidarity, will refuse to accept TAships, GSIs, or readerships for any department in which TAs/GSIs have been fired as a result of participation in the COLA strike.
- If anyone is fired as a result of this action, we are prepared to engage in further escalation.
We ask that the university negotiate in good faith to bring this strike to an end.

The university only works if faculty, staff, graduate students and undergrads work together toward a common mission of excellence in education and research. We hope to continue toward this goal together as a community.

Signed,
BME Grads

1. Trevor Pesout, Ph.D Candidate
2. Jordan Eizenga, Ph.D. Candidate
3. Maximilian Genetti, Ph.D Student
4. Yohei Rosen, PhD Candidate
5. Bryan Thornlow, Ph.D. Candidate
6. Ryan Lorig-Roach, Ph.D. Student
7. Andrew Bailey, Ph.D Candidate
8. Rachel Mendelson, Ph.D Student
9. Colette Felton, PhD Candidate
10. Nicholas Lorig-Roach, Ph.D. Candidate
11. Jakob McBroome, Ph.D. Student
12. Niki Thomas, Ph.D. Student
13. Dennis Mulligan, M.S. Student
14. Darrin T. Schultz, PhD Candidate
15. Xian Chang, Ph.D. Student
16. Remy Nguyen, Ph.D. Student
17. Verena Friedl, Ph.D. Candidate
18. Paloma Medina, Ph.D. Candidate
19. Jonas Oppenheimer, Ph.D. Student
20. Marina Haukness, Ph.D Student
21. Spencer Seiler, Ph.D Student
22. Letitia Mueller, Ph.D. Student