Petition in Support of Graduate Student Cost of Living Adjustment and Against Firings and Retaliation

In agreement with the recently released Statement on UCSC Graduate Strike and Police Presence at UCSC by the University of California Academic Council, we wish to register our deep concern about the labor conflict, police presence, and threats to fire graduate students on our campus who are striking so they can afford to live where they work. UCSC graduate students have offered to enter grades of any undergraduate student who requests it, which reflects both graduate students’ investment in undergraduate education and undergraduate support for the striking graduate students.

From the statement, we affirm that:

1) Undergraduate and graduate missions of the university are inseparable. As the Academic Council puts it, “If graduate education is not flourishing, undergraduate education cannot flourish either.”

2) Our graduate students cannot do their work if they are experiencing rent burden, inadequate housing, and food insecurity. It is the University’s responsibility to provide adequate housing and food security to graduate students.

3) Due to this responsibility, the University must not punish graduate students for participating in the strike or withholding grades. The threats from Administration to fire all graduate students who do not submit grades by February 21, 2020 is a refusal to consider what our students need in order for graduate and undergraduate education to flourish on our campus.

As the wildcat strike has drawn national attention to the precarity experienced by our students, we believe the next steps must not be punitive; rather there should be good faith negotiation with students to address their legitimate demands for housing and food security.

As faculty, we also stand in support of the Senate Resolution, presented by Karen Bassi and Fernando Leiva and passed in the Academic Senate Meeting (February 19), that the University’s reliance on graduate student and lecturer labor is unsustainable given the cost of living across California, and particularly in Santa Cruz, and that the Chancellor’s proposed support packages and need-based housing supplement do not offer a long-term solution to graduate student precarity. In addition to encouraging undergraduate students to inform on their teachers, as detailed in California Scholars for Academic Freedom’s letter to Chancellor Larive re: UCSC Graduate Student Strike and “Notification of Class and Section Disruption” Form, the University
has responded with police presence at the picket line and disciplinary action against graduate students.

The UAW is willing to meet with UCSC Administration and UCOP, and striking graduate students are willing to pause the work stoppage as soon as the UCSC Administration enters into substantive, good-faith discussions.

As UCSC faculty, we feel that the only ethical move available to the Administration is to renounce punitive measures, including but not limited to firing striking graduate students, and enter into dialogue with UAW and the striking graduate students to come to an equitable solution to graduate student precarity.

As outlined in the Academic Senate meeting, we echo that Administration should:

1. Support the graduate students,’ lecturers’ and staff’s need for higher wages commensurate with local cost-of-living increases;
2. Withdraw sanctions against striking and arrested students;
3. Affirm departmental recommendations in the assignment of TAships;
4. And open dialogue with striking graduate students and lecturers whose contract ended on January 31, 2020 to find fair and lasting solutions that honor each of these units’ indispensable contributions to teaching and research at the University of California.

Respectfully,

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5. Madeleine Fairbairn, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies
6. Bob Meister, Professor, History of Consciousness
7. Neda Atanasoski, Professor, Feminist Studies and CRES
8. Fernando Leiva, Associate Professor, Latin American and Latino Studies
9. Bob Majzler, Lecturer, Psychology and College 10
10. Megan Moodie, Associate Professor, Anthropology
11. Zac Zimmer, Assistant Professor, Literature
12. Carla Freccero, Distinguished Professor, Literature & History of Consciousness
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14. Jenny Kelly, Assistant Professor, Feminist Studies and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies
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18. Vilashini Cooppan, Professor, Literature
19. Muriam Davis, Assistant Professor, History
20. Hillary Angelo, Assistant Professor, Sociology
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22. Cindy Cruz, Emerita Professor, Education
23. Dorian Bell, Associate Professor, Literature
24. Hunter Bivens, Associate Professor, Literature
25. Antonio Roman-Alcalá, Lecturer, Community Studies
26. Robbie Kubala, Assistant Professor, Philosophy
27. Nirshan Perera, Lecturer, Writing Program, Oakes & Kresge
28. Jason Samaha, Assistant Professor, Psychology
29. Maywa Montenegro, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies
30. Nathan Altice, Teaching Professor, Computational Media
31. Marcia Ochoa, Associate Professor, Feminist Studies and Interim Provost, Oakes College
32. Owen Arden, Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Engineering
33. Cynthia Lewis, Professor, Education
34. Wlad Godzich, Distinguished Professor of Literature
35. Mayanthi Fernando, Associate Professor, Anthropology
36. Gail Hershatter, Distinguished Professor, History
37. Per Gjerde, Professor Emeritus, Psychology
38. Elizabeth Stephens, Professor, Art
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41. Susan Gillman, Distinguished Professor of Literature
42. Hiroshi Fukurai, Professor, Sociology, Legal Studies
43. Susan Wright, Researcher, Politics
44. Grace Pena Delgado, Associate Professor, History
45. Nicolas Davidenko, Associate Professor, Psychology
46. Jennifer Maytorena Taylor, Associate Professor, Film and Digital Media
47. Lindsey Kuper, Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Engineering
48. Lars Fehren-Schmitz, Associate Professor, Anthropology
49. Diane Gifford-Gonzalez, Distinguished Research Professor, Anthropology
50. Margaret Amis, Lecturer, Writing Program
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52. Irene Lusztig, Professor, Film + Digital Media
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54. Mark Baker, Continuing Lecturer, Writing Program and Oakes College
55. James Ackman, Assistant Professor, Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology
56. Pascale Garaud, Professor, Applied Mathematics
57. Rob Wilson, Professor, Literature
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69. Lindsey Dillon, Assistant Professor, Sociology
70. Maya Peterson, Associate Professor, History
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72. Andrea Steiner, Continuing Lecturer, Community Studies
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75. Robin Hunicke, Professor, Art + Design: Games & Playable Media
76. Jennifer Derr, Associate Professor, History
77. Shawn Nichols, Lecturer, Politics
78. Nidhi Mahajan, Assistant Professor, Anthropology
79. Martin Devecka, Assistant Professor, Literature
80. Saskias Casanova, Assistant Professor, Psychology
81. T. J. Demos, Professor, History of Art and Visual Culture
82. Anna Friz, Assistant Professor, Film & Digital Media
83. Christine King, Lecturer, Kresge & Porter Colleges
84. Margarita Azmitia, Professor of Psychology
85. Sharon Daniel, Professor, Film and Digital Media
86. Jessica Taft, Associate Professor, Latin American and Latino Studies
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95. Judith Habicht Mauche, Professor, Anthropology
96. Patty Gallagher, Professor, Theatre Arts
97. Ryan Bennett, Associate Professor, Linguistics
98. Laura Martin, Lecturer, Porter College and Literature
99. Camilo Góme-Rivas, Associate Professor, Literature
100. Alma Heckman, Assistant Professor, History
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111. Jon Ellis, Associate Professor, Philosophy
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147. Shelly Grabe, Professor, Psychology
148. Robert Goff, Professor Emeritus, Philosophy
149. Lisa Rofel, Professor Emerita, Anthropology
150. Deborah Gould, Associate Professor, Sociology
151. Flora Lu, Professor, Environmental Studies
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158. Noel Smyth, Lecturer, History
159. Fitnat Yildiz, METX
160. Todd Nathan Thorpe, Lecturer, Cowell
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162. David Kant, Lecturer, Music
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164. B. Ruby Rich, Professor, Film + Digital Media
165. David Gordon, Assistant Professor, Politics
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S. Ravi Rajan, Professor, Environmental Studies
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| 206 | Hannah Meszaros Martin, Post doc, History of Art and Visual Culture |
| 207 | Shawn Nichols, Lecturer, Politics |
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