



We, the United Campus Workers of Louisiana (CWA Local 3465), as representatives fighting for university workers' interests in all of Louisiana, stand in solidarity with the striking graduate workers at the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) and other University of California campuses. Graduate workers perform indispensable skilled labor on their university campuses, including teaching, grading, running labs and conducting research for professors, and they deserve to be paid enough to have housing, food, and healthcare. UCSC strikers demand a reasonable cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of \$1,412 to live in Santa Cruz. UCSC's graduate workers are fighting to be paid enough money to live in one of the most expensive markets in the United States, where they currently must spend 70% of their monthly income on rent. Before the strike action began, the UC system refused to even discuss a COLA for graduate workers. UCW-LA supports the graduate workers' and their allies in the UC system, who are striking and withholding grades until the UC system provides the graduate workers with a salary sufficient to meet their basic needs.

The UC system's response to the graduate workers' strike has been abhorrent, including sending the police to attack striking workers who are peacefully picketing UCSC and firing or refusing to renew the teaching and research contracts of over 80 graduate workers. UCW-LA condemns the UC system's militant response to graduate workers' demands that they be paid living wages. The UC system's response to strikers demonstrates administrators' contempt for graduate workers as well as ignorance about the vital role they play in accomplishing the system's mission of "discovering and advancing knowledge" for the common good. Graduate workers cannot concentrate on their jobs when they are hungry and worried about becoming homeless, and UC is undermining its mission when it pays these workers poverty wages. We strongly condemn the UC's punitive measures and their refusal to discuss a COLA with union representatives of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2865, which represents graduate workers in the UC system. We call on the UC to rescind the dismissals of striking graduate workers and to work with the UAW Local 2685 to meet the reasonable demands for a necessary COLA. We call on all campus workers in the UC system to support the strikes and labor actions taking place on their campuses.

As campus workers in Louisiana, we look to our union siblings in California for inspiration and guidance in organizing our own fair wages campaign. As graduate workers, staff, and faculty members, we pledge to continue to support the strikers at UCSC and on other UC campuses in the following ways: because the strike is based on dire financial need (something we, campus workers in Louisiana, are all too familiar with) and striking workers are facing a loss of pay and livelihood, we are committed to circulating the strikers' GoFundMe page and, where possible, donating ourselves; we will distribute information on the strike through all our communication channels; we will sign and circulate the Non-UCSC Faculty Pledge of Solidarity and Noncooperation In Support of the UCSC Wildcat Strike, and we will refuse to collaborate with the UC while the administration refuses to support its graduate workers; and, we will be arranging an on-campus action in solidarity early next week.

Support Fund for Striking Workers at UCSC:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-fund-for-striking-workers-at-ucsc/>

For more information and the most recent updates on the UCSC strike:

<https://payusmoreucsc.com> and @payusmoreucsc on Twitter

Faculty Pledge of Solidarity and Noncooperation:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdG2HqiSsC2XFFaT26e0YfGkRNo0LbIxQAiCxHoG12IIErISw/viewform?fbclid=IwAR1I9hMg2PTCOTYY3wXXd1FRAEqESZCiWxEAEhOyGhYMAAYJOhnKQTvjDd8> or <https://tinyurl.com/vn62r5x>