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HOMELESSNESS

August 16, 2022

Michael Drake, President  
University of California  
Office of the President  
1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

**RE: Improving Access Needs for UAW Academic Workers at the University of California**

Dear President Drake,

I write to urge the University of California (UC) to be a leader in the fight for disability justice. It is vital to reach an agreement with the 48,000 UC Academic Workers represented by United Auto Workers (UAW) to accommodate employee access needs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed flaws in existing protections for workers with disabilities. Many workers face challenges to have their accommodation requests managed within reasonable timelines. The University must address these challenges to ensure all employees can carry out their meaningful work. The UC can be a leader on the issue of disability access and set a high standard for workplace accessibility.

UAW-represented workers have shown dedication to the UC system and have helped provide funding to continue the UC's great research and education missions. I urge you to meet the access needs of these workers by reaching agreement with UAW on their proposed measures that will improve accessibility. Ensuring that we meet the needs of all students and workers is the only way we can ensure that the University of California is a place for all.

For any questions, please contact my office at (916) 319-2053.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miguel Santiago". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

MIGUEL SANTIAGO  
Assembly Member, 53<sup>rd</sup> District