November 10, 2022

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

Dear President Drake,

As a Member of California’s legislature, and representative of the University of California, Davis (UCD), and its students, employees and faculty, I write to urge you to do everything in your power to avert the potential strike by 48,000 UAW-represented Academic Workers at the University of California (UC).

The 48,000 UAW-represented Academic Workers — Academic Researchers, Postdoctoral Scholars, Academic Student Employees and Student Researchers — perform the bulk of the teaching and research at UC. Their talent, innovation, and labor contributes greatly to the University’s mission and its ability to secure funding. In FY 2021-22, UC received $5.1 billion from the state in instructional and research funding.

As one of California’s largest employers, UC has not only the opportunity but the obligation to be a leader in setting industry standards for academia and leading the way for other public employers. I have been in constant contact over the years with both the Administration and community of students and employees at UCD. I have expressed my disappointment that I do not feel the UC has, to date, come to the table with the UAW’s four bargaining units to fully engage in good faith discussions about improvements to the working conditions of all Academic Workers and implement benefits and compensation commensurate with the immense value they provide the University. We desperately need you to take a leadership role in doing that now.
I need not tell you that the mass disruption of a strike would be devastating to the entire UC community, its reputation, and operation now and into the future. And, I know you share my deep commitment to UC’s ability to attract and retain world-class students, faculty and employees to each campus. I hope that I can count on your leadership to engage UAW and its members, so that the impact of a strike and the damage it will cause can be avoided in the coming days and weeks.

Sincerely,

CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY
Assemblymember, 4th District

CC: Rich Leib, Chair of the UC Board of Regents
Michael Brown, Provost and Executive Vice President