

KATIE ★ PORTER

FOR CONGRESS

Via U.S. and Electronic Mail

November 21, 2022

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

RE: Act Now to Resolve the Unfair Labor Practice Strikes of 48,000 UAW-represented Academic Workers at UC

Dear President Drake:

As members of California's congressional delegation, we urge you to immediately resolve the Unfair Labor Practice strikes of 48,000 UAW-represented Academic Workers at the University of California and negotiate fair contracts with their unions.

In early November, over 35,000 Academic Workers constituting 75% of the total UAW-represented workforce from all 10 University of California campuses and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab voted to call for strikes if circumstances justified. On November 14, 48,000 UAW-represented Academic Workers began Unfair Labor Practice strikes. **UC must act to address the serious disruption that this multi-unit strike is causing the University and surrounding communities by immediately ceasing all of its unfair labor practices and bargain in good faith to reach agreement with UAW Academic Workers in all four bargaining units.**

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 the University of California. Their talent, innovation, and labor are an integral part of the University's function and ability to secure funding. The University of California received more than \$3.58 billion in federal research funding in FY 2020-2021, and Academic Workers are essential to ensuring the University receives this robust funding from the federal government year-after-year.

The University of California is one of the top public universities and research institutions in the world, in no small part because of its ability to attract strong talent from diverse backgrounds. But the University cannot live up to its mission if it does not respect the integrity of work and continues to violate California public sector labor laws.

KATIE ★ PORTER

FOR CONGRESS

Since UAW began negotiating with the University of California last year, the union has filed over 30 Unfair Labor Practices against the University, with many resulting in official complaints issued by the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). It is our understanding that the University of California's unlawful tactics are preventing the UAW from reaching agreements on issues that address improving gender and other equity in academia, including compensation that reflects the value of workers' contributions, transit benefits that help fight climate change, paid family leave, and job security. These priorities will help the University recruit and retain a diverse workforce that reflects the population of California.

As one of California's largest employers, the University of California has the opportunity to lead in setting industry standards for academia and other public employers. We urge the University of California to come to the table with the UAW's four bargaining units, in good faith, to improve the working conditions of all Academic Workers and implement benefits and compensation commensurate with the value they provide the University. By failing to do so, the University of California is risking continued mass disruption and loss of talent that has earned the University of California its prestigious reputation.

Sincerely,

KATIE ★ PORTER
FOR CONGRESS




Congresswoman Katie Porter



Congressman Pete Aguilar



Congresswoman Karen Bass



Congressman Salud Carbajal



Congresswoman Judy Chu



Congressman Lou Correa



Congressman Mark DeSaulnier



Congressman Ted Lieu



Congressman Alan Lowenthal



Congresswoman Grace Napolitano



Congressman Scott Peters



Congressman Adam Schiff



Congresswoman Norma Torres



Congressman Juan Vargas

KATIE ★ PORTER
FOR CONGRESS



Congressman Jerry McNerney



Congressman Mike Levin



Congressman Josh Harder



Congressman Tony Cárdenas