November 16, 2022

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

RE: Contract Negotiations with UAW-represented Academic Workers at UC

Dear President Drake,

I write to urge the University of California to negotiate in good faith with the UAW-represented Academic Workers and to act immediately to end the need for these workers to strike by stopping the unfair labor practices that have been substantiated by the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB).

It is unfortunate that our Academic workers felt compelled to strike. Immediately ceasing unfair labor practices and bargaining in good faith with the UAW Academic Workers in all four bargaining units will help to restore the conditions necessary to help achieve an equitable resolution by all parties.

As you know, I have worked to ensure that our state funding continues to support our UC system so it can continue to achieve its status as the nation’s premier public higher education institution. The 48,000 UAW-represented Academic Workers — Academic Researchers, Postdoctoral Scholars, Academic Student Employees, and Student Researchers — perform a significant share of the teaching and research at UC. Their talent, innovation, and labor contribute greatly to the University’s mission and its ability to secure funding from private and public sources.

Since UAW began negotiating with UC last year, the union has filed over 20 Unfair Labor Practices against the University, many of which resulted in Complaints issued by the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). I was concerned to hear about UC’s actions to bypass the bargaining process, implement unilateral changes to contractual topics, and refuse to disclose requisite information to UAW.
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 urge UC 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 immense value they provide the University.

Sincerely,

Nancy Skinner
California State Senator, SD-09

CC:
Michael Brown, Provost & Executive Vice President
Tricia Lyall, Interim Secretary and Chief of Staff, University of California Board of Regents
Michael Bedard-Hearn, Legislative Director, University of California Office of the President
Jessica Bartholow, Chief of Staff, State Senator Nancy Skinner
Audrey Olushola Momoh, District Director, State Senator Nancy Skinner
Robert Gammon, Communications Director & Policy Analyst, State Senator Nancy Skinner