

## **Statement of Support for UC Graduate Academic Workers**

### **Department of Asian American Studies, UCI**

The faculty in the Department of Asian American Studies at the University of California at Irvine support the Teaching Assistants, Readers, Tutors, Postdoctoral Scholars, Academic Researchers, and Graduate Student Researchers, represented by the UAW 265, the UAW 5810, and the SRU-UAW, as they negotiate with the University for a contract that includes fair wages, affordable housing, childcare support, support for international and disabled scholars, and protection from workplace abuse of any kind. Our field as a whole and this department in particular are built on student movements for racial and social justice, and we recognize the centrality of the work that these students undertake in meeting the intellectual, pedagogical, and community-related commitments of our campus and the system. We pledge not to interfere in any of the organized actions or activities of the unions. We support workers' rights to organize and the union's decision to strike, as these basic qualities of life are an issue of social justice. We call upon UCOP to negotiate in good faith with the UAW to find a solution that recognizes the vital labor of these student workers.