

November 11, 2022

The University of California is in contract negotiations with the United Auto Workers regarding four academic appointee bargaining units: Postdoctoral Scholars, Academic Researchers, Academic Student Employees (teaching assistants/readers/tutors), and Graduate Student Researchers. We support the workers in these negotiations and additionally call on the University to exert pressure on federal funding agencies to increase funding and pay caps in order to enable our campuses to responsibly act on the workers' requests.

We acknowledge that the conditions at one UC campus will invariably differ from those at another. For instance, housing affordability and availability are more dire on certain campuses than others. Likewise, salary and benefits may be better in certain schools or departments than others. But deciding to lend support to strikers based on whether we agree with each individual issue misses the point. Unions cannot effectively negotiate if members operate in isolation. Strikers need allies for moral, financial, and practical support. When unions work with allies they can benefit the whole community and build a powerful coalition for the future. And the converse is true: the whole community benefits from a powerful coalition. We are a community of educators, and we support the workers in this educational community.

The UCI Biomedical Engineering DEI Committee