

Statement of Support for UC Graduate Students
Department of Classics, UCLA
November 12, 2022

We, the undersigned Senate faculty in the UCLA Department of Classics, write this statement to express our full support for the graduate student workers within our department and across the entire UC system who are fighting for a livable wage within some of the most expensive cities in the nation, as well as for other demands, including childcare, transit support, and equity for international and disabled scholars.

The Classics Department recognizes the vital work performed by graduate students as scholars and instructors who not only stand at the forefront of providing excellence in instruction to our undergraduate students but who also represent the future of our profession. This quarter alone, TAs in Classics are teaching over 600 UCLA undergraduates, as they are also forming their own identities as scholars. Yet they do so in circumstances of great economic precarity, which too often prevent them from advancing and developing their research. We call on the University of California, as the number one public research institution in the country, to honor its commitment to all of our students by offering graduate student workers the financial security necessary to contribute to advancing our mission as educators and scholars at the forefront of our disciplines.

The inexcusably low pay of graduate students in the UC system has had longstanding recruitment, retention, and equity implications for our graduate student body. The Department of Classics, along with other departments at UCLA, calls upon the UC system to address these inequities, which seriously hinder the UC's mission to continue to attract and train top scholars. We request that the UC honor its commitment to a diverse and inclusive future for academia by ensuring that graduate study in the UC system is financially viable for students from all backgrounds.

We stand in solidarity with our graduate students in their negotiations for a livable wage and confirm our commitment to non-retaliation for any member of our department who exercises their protected right to engage in these actions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Beckmann
David Blank
Hannah Čulík-Baird
Robert Gurval
Ella Haselswerdt
Chris Johanson
Bryant Kirkland
Francesca Martelli
Kathryn Morgan
Sarah Morris
John Papadopoulos
Alex Purves
Lydia Spielberg
Adriana Vazquez
Brent Vine