

The faculty of the Department of Film, Television, and Digital Media call upon the administration of UCLA to urge UCOP to continue to negotiate in good faith with UAW 2865, UAW 5810, and SRU-UAW. We stand in solidarity with teaching assistants, tutors, readers, student researchers, postdocs, and other members of these unions in their fight for livable wages, affordable and sustainable transit options, child care vouchers, affordable housing, job security, accessibility for disabled student workers, equitable tuition and visa structures for international students, and other basic necessities. As a public research institution located in one of the most expensive cities in the world, UCLA has a particular responsibility to combat structural inequality as a part of its educational mission and to ensure that graduate education is accessible to all regardless of socioeconomic background. Graduate student labor is a core part of the UC's research and teaching. In the absence of a viable agreement addressing real needs, an ongoing strike will make it impossible for the faculty to complete the work necessary for concluding courses offered this term – both undergraduate and graduate level courses will be affected. The consequences of these delays will reach beyond this quarter, as graduate degree progress will also be detrimentally affected. We urge the UC to put structures in place to ensure graduate students' livelihood and well-being now, rather than waiting until strikes or other actions divert students' time and resources away from what they should be able to focus on: impactful and meaningful research, teaching, and education.