

November 15, 2022

RE: UC Academic Workers on Strike

To the UC Merced Community and Labor Center Community,

Today, three local unions representing 48,000 academic workers across the University of California (UAW 2865, UAW 5810, and Student Researchers United-UAW) are negotiating a fair contract. The UC Merced Community and Labor Center stands in solidarity with UC academic workers and support their right to collectively bargain.

UC academic workers are key to the University of California's public-serving mission. Academic Student Employees, Academic Researchers, Postdoctoral Scholars, and Student Researchers provide crucial research, teaching and service that advances the UC's status as a world-class university and mission to improve quality of life for countless persons in California and beyond.

Yet, at critical moments, the UC did not negotiate in good faith with the unions. Prior to the strike, the UAW filed over twenty Unfair Labor Practices (ULP) charges against the UC, such as failing to respond to requests for basic information and unilaterally making changes to working conditions. The California Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) issued complaints against the university in at least three of those ULPs.

In response to the UC not negotiating in good faith, 97.5 percent of Academic Workers at the University of California voted to authorize a strike action.

The UC Community and Labor Center further supports UC academic workers' right to strike. We urge University leaders to encourage UC negotiators to work in good faith to immediately resolve the dispute in a manner acceptable to represented workers.

We also note that UC leadership has communicated misinformation in the effort to undermine solidarity with the striking unions. UC leadership has cited the APM in efforts to compel faculty to cross the picket line, though the Higher Education Employment Relations Act (HHERA) is state law and cannot be undermined by UC policy.

The UC Merced Community and Labor Center stands in solidarity with UC academic workers in their fight for fair and equitable contracts.

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