

Departmental Statement in Support of Graduate Student Workers

We, faculty members in the UCSB Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, stand with our university's graduate students—and with graduate students, graduate researchers, and postdoctoral researchers across the University of California system—in their efforts to obtain a fair living wage. Graduate students play an essential role in the workings of the university and we value and appreciate the excellent work they perform. A fair wage is essential to drawing a robust, diverse group of graduate students that will ensure the future of our profession.

We call on the University of California to bargain in good faith and to increase graduate student salaries in a manner that addresses the significant economic burdens that our students face while living in one of the most expensive areas in the nation. By addressing the students' legitimate demands, the university can avoid disruption to our core mission.

We recognize that academic workers in UAW 2865, UAW 5810, and SRU-UAW have a legal right to participate in strike actions and we call on the University of California to refrain from any form of retaliation against legitimate strike activity. We urge the university to swiftly come to an agreement where everyone's needs can be met.