

To the Department of Literature's Graduate Workers:

The undersigned Senate faculty in the Department of Literature stand in solidarity with graduate workers at UC San Diego. We know that graduate workers' labor is critical to the day-to-day functioning of all ten University of California campuses, and the UC must compensate them accordingly. The cost of graduate workers currently accounts for 0.6% of the total UC budget. The Union's current proposal in bargaining would only increase that spending to less than 3%. This is a minimal increase, given how much teaching and research graduate workers contribute to our campus communities. **We hope that UCOP will settle with UAW so that graduate workers are not forced to go on strike. However, if graduate workers go on strike, we commit to respecting the picket line throughout the full duration of the strike.**

As the cost of living has dramatically increased in California, financial support for our graduate workers has not. On some UC campuses, including our own, there are instances where on-campus rent prices have increased up to 50% from one year to the next. The precarity of UC graduate students has only increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many students in our own department have experienced housing or food precarity at some point during their graduate career. This is unacceptable and goes against the University of California's mission and core values. **We will ensure that the department and its faculty meet their existing legal obligations not to retaliate against graduate workers for exercising their right to strike. We urge UCOP to negotiate in good faith with UAW and take the Union's proposals seriously.**

UC San Diego announced in the summer of 2022 that it was the youngest university to reach a multibillion-dollar campaign goal, fundraising \$3 billion. The University can and should use some of this funding to provide all UC San Diego graduate workers with competitive funding and housing packages, so we can continue to be a leading public university; our university works because they do.

In solidarity,

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