Statement from BT Members who voted against the Tentative Agreement

Tl;dr —register for a mass meeting with bargaining team members who voted against the tentative agreement

- *Sunday, Dec 8, 3pm: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwucequqzspE9FL98G929XR3TP_uLOQYuvo*

After one week of mediation, the two graduate worker Bargaining Teams have voted 11-8 (2865) and 13-7 with one abstention (SRU) on a tentative agreement with UC. We attach an overview which spells out the major components of the UC's offer, for rank and file members to consider. The vote will open Monday, Dec. 19 at 8am and close Friday, Dec. 23 at 5pm.

We are BT members and alternates who voted against this agreement based on our belief that the UC's mediated proposals fail to deliver on the major demands of the strike. More importantly, our assessment is that our strike remains very strong, and has unfulfilled potential to extract a better offer from the UC.

Through a full month of striking, workers have pushed the UC from both its pre-strike position and the "final offer" it made on 12/3. We believe that with major points of leverage on the horizon, we stand to win more than is currently on the table if we continue to exercise the power of our withheld labor. This current offer represents UC's attempt to buy us off while we are in a position of strength.

If the strike continues beyond this moment, workers should seriously and soberly expect the UC to exert greater further efforts to break the strike through retaliation and repression. But if workers continue holding together and our strike is able to withstand this, then we can move the employer even more than we already have. Based on the firm commitments we observe on our campuses towards a long-haul strike, we think that there is still more to be won, and that we still have the capacity to win it.

Whether this tentative agreement is ratified or voted down, we believe that our union membership will make the correct call on this offer. Rank and file members have shown extremely high engagement and attentiveness to developments in bargaining and mediation. The details of the offer are available, and workers will not allow themselves to be "sold" by wishful thinking or skewed representations of the contract. If the offer is good enough, workers will take it; if it is not, they will refuse it. We hope that our summary assists members in making their decision.

Our main recommendation is for workers to meet to discuss and vote together on the deal, framing their conversations both in terms of the contract offer and in terms of the arc and strategy of the long-haul strike.

This is the question of the ratification vote: Is now the time to stop and settle for what we have, or is now the time to recommit to the strike and leverage our power for more?

As BT representatives who voted "no" on this tentative agreement, **we believe that we can win more**. We will host a meeting on **Sunday December 18 at 3pm**, where we will explain our perspective on this offer and our strategic thoughts on what comes next. This meeting will be streamed on twitch here: https://m.twitch.tv/striketowinuc

In solidarity,

Janna Haider
Recording Secretary, UAW 2865, Santa Barbara Campus

Micah Pedrick
Unit Chair, UAW 2865, Santa Barbara Campus

Becky Martin
Bargaining Team Alternate, UAW 2865, Santa Barbara Campus

Kirsten Thomas-McGill
Bargaining Team Alternate, UAW 2865, Santa Barbara Campus

Payton Demarzo
SRU-UAW Bargaining Team, Santa Barbara Campus

Hannah Freund
Alternate, SRU-UAW Bargaining Team, Riverside Campus

Maddie Williams
Recording Secretary, UAW 2865, San Diego Campus

Jack Davies
Unit Chair, UAW 2865, Santa Cruz Campus

Stefan Yong
Recording Secretary, UAW 2865, Santa Cruz Campus

Jess Fournier
Bargaining Team Alternate, UAW 2865, Santa Cruz Campus

Sarah Mason
Bargaining Team Alternate, UAW 2865, Santa Cruz Campus

Nick Cruz
Recording Secretary, UAW 2865, Merced Campus

Mark Woodall
Unit Chair, UAW 2865, Merced Campus

Mai Nguyen Do
Recording Secretary, UAW 2865, Riverside Campus

Riley Collins
SRU-UAW Bargaining Team, Santa Cruz Campus

Becker Sharif
SRU-UAW Bargaining Team, Santa Cruz Campus

Jacob Fontana
SRU-UAW Bargaining Team Alternate, Santa Cruz Campus

Alauna Wheeler
SRU-UAW Bargaining Team, Merced Campus

Gloria Denise Ligunas
SRU-UAW Bargaining Team, Merced Campus

Hasan Alkhairo
SRU-UAW Bargaining Team, San Francisco Campus