



Established 1965

### **Bayanihan Stands with #COLA**

Bayanihan (formerly known as the Filipino Student Association) at UC Santa Cruz supports the graduate student's demand for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) as they are dealing with the extreme rent burden that they, among many others, deal with through living in Santa Cruz.

As one of the ethnic organizations on this campus that is completely student-led, we stand closely and are in full support of the strike and the actions that our TA's have done in regard to demanding their COLA. Our graduate students perform the most arduous and essential labor in order to provide the best results for the university and its students. Not only are they carrying the burden of the outrageous amount that they spend for rent and the limitations they have based on the wage that they are given, but they do this as they provide the emotional and physical labor for the university. Not only do they teach our classes, grade our assignments, and help students through their office hours, but they do their absolute best to ensure the best results for their students.

As for the cost of living in regards to rent, Santa Cruz is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States. Due to this, many university workers, undergraduate students, and graduate students, face housing insecurity. The graduate students have voiced their concerns to the administration as many of them have spent over 50% of their wages **solely** for rent. As Bayanihan, we fully understand and feel the pain of their economic struggle and we support the actions that they have taken on in order to ensure that their demands are met.

The graduate students who have organized this strike have asked undergraduate students to stand in solidarity with them as they fight for their COLA. In the process of withholding grades, they have done their best to ensure to their students that there will be no negative effects on them. However, the administration continues to use fear tactics against them and have skewed the narrative to portray a negative image to undergraduate students. It is clear that this university continues to create a clear divide as a way of fulfilling their greed to a capitalistic system that feeds on the hands of their workers and students.

Bayanihan at UC Santa Cruz calls on our members and other progressive and/or ethnic student organizations to also stand in solidarity for our graduate students as they fight for their rights to housing and an ACTUAL living wage. Huwag Matakot! Don't be scared!

In Solidarity,  
Bayanihan '19-'20

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