

Dear Education PhD Students:

The faculty of the Education Department are deeply committed to supporting our PhD and undergraduate students. We understand that a graduate student COLA would provide graduate students with greater economic security and a sense of well-being that, in turn, would benefit undergraduate education. And we know you share our commitment to teaching quality, educational equity, and social justice.

We recognize that a collective decision to strike requires each individual to make their own decisions about their degree of participation. We want to be clear that our department will not retaliate against any graduate student worker who chooses to participate in the wildcat strike. Future department decisions about TA and GSI allocations will not be affected by your decisions regarding strike participation as long as you are ethical--as we know you will be--in your communication with faculty and students. It is important for you to understand, however, that some decisions about hiring are made outside of our department.

Along with over four hundred other UCSC faculty and lecturers, many in our department have signed the Faculty Petition in solidarity with graduate students. It concerns us that, according to the City on a Hill Press, in the last five years the campus has given graduate student union workers only a three percent raise while Santa Cruz housing prices have increased by fifteen percent over the same time period.

We are here to talk with you and address concerns as they arise. Let's stay in collaborative communication as is characteristic of our department.

In support,
Cynthia Lewis