



Statement of Solidarity: UCSC COLA Wildcat Strike

We, the Graduate Employee Organization of UMass Amherst (GEO/UAW2322) stand in complete solidarity with the striking graduate workers of UCSC (UAW2865). On December 8, a general assembly of hundreds of graduate workers in the University of California Santa Cruz declared an indefinite wildcat strike to withhold final grades. Graduate workers at UCSC are not paid a living wage, with costs of living rising at over 15% annually, and a disproportionately tiny 3% wage increase. Graduate workers at UCSC often spend more than half their wage on rent alone. We express our absolute support for the UCSC workers' demand for COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) and are inspired by their struggle for better living, better housing, and better wages.

We know that UCSC workers have entered this wildcat strike after a prolonged effort towards getting a fair cost of living adjustment, in the face of skyrocketing rents and a serious housing crisis. We condemn the apathy of the university administration, and urge that they pay the cost of living adjustment immediately. We further urge against any retaliation towards strikers, and organizers.

We would also like to note that the wildcat strike at UCSC comes at a time of a nationwide strike-wave by educators across universities and schools: at Harvard, Virginia, UCSC, Chicago etc. These strikes, and many others like them show an ever-rising defiance to new education regimes based in funding cuts creating greater precarity for academic workers.

We are deeply inspired by the UCSC wildcat strike, the ability and power of the workers to organize for better conditions, and the ways in which these struggles may help us find more equitable and humane conditions of life and work.

In solidarity and support,

GEO UMass Amherst, UAW 2322