

Dear Visual Studies PhD Students:

The HAVC faculty want you to know that our department is deeply committed to supporting our PhD and undergraduate students. We understand that a graduate student COLA would benefit graduate students' well-being and success and we know you share our commitment to teaching quality, educational equity, and social justice.

HAVC will not retaliate against any graduate student worker who chooses to participate in the strike. Future department decisions about TA and GSI allocations will not be affected by your decision to participate in the strike. We hope you will remain communicative with faculty and students.

Along with over three 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.

Please feel free to contact your advisor regarding your concerns. We look forward to staying in collaborative communication.

Elisabeth

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