



December 16, 2019

Dear Chancellor Larive, EVC Kletzer, and UC Santa Cruz Administration,

We, the Faculty Chairs and Graduate Student Representatives of STEM departments, are writing to you in regards to this month's graduate student strike activity and the need for solutions to address graduate student living conditions in Santa Cruz.

This week, we have in our respective STEM departments been discussing student needs, the strike activities, and potential solutions that would help both graduate students and the university as a whole. In some departments, graduate students and faculty together have been sharing perspectives and brainstorming long- and short-term solutions.

While our viewpoints are diverse, we agree that there is a present and immediate need for action, given the current conditions under which many of our graduate students are struggling. In order to address these issues and support our graduate students, we, as STEM Chairs and Graduate Representatives, are calling on the administration **to meet directly with representatives of the Graduate Student Association at the earliest time possible to establish constructive dialogue toward solutions.**

We want to recognize the burden that this week's strike activities have imposed on graduate students, faculty, staff, undergraduates, and administration. But while conflict is at times unpleasant, it is not always antithetical to progress, nor must it be adversarial. Good things come from shared, open dialogue, and we feel that that dialogue is essential to move forward.

Signed,

Ingrid Parker, Chair, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
and

Melissa Cronin and Nevé Baker, Graduate Student Representatives, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Christina Ravelo, Chair, Ocean Sciences  
and

Kimberly deLong, Graduate Student Representative, Ocean Sciences

Raja GuhaThakurta and Connie Rockosi, co-Chairs, Astronomy and Astrophysics  
and

Tyler Takaro, Rachel Bowens-Rubin, and Brenna Mockler, Graduate Student Representatives,  
Astronomy and Astrophysics

Susan Strome, Chair, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
and

Braden J. Larson, Graduate Student Representative, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental  
Biology

and

Francisco Javier Mendez Diaz, GSA MCD Biology Department Representative, Molecular, Cell,  
and Developmental Biology

Chad Saltikov, Chair, Microbiology and Environmental Toxicology  
and

Avatar Joshi, Graduate Student Representative, Microbiology and Environmental Toxicology

Ilan Benjamin, Chair, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Viktor Ginzburg, Chair, Mathematics