



**United University Professions  
Albany Chapter**

**Resolution of Solidarity in Support of Graduate Student Workers  
at UC Santa Cruz**

**Albany Chapter, United University Professions**

**Whereas** graduate student workers at the University of California Santa Cruz have gone out on a wildcat strike to demand fair wages: a monthly payment of \$1412.00 based on the cost of living in Santa Cruz and pay-parity with UC Riverside;

**And whereas** those graduate student workers lucky enough to find housing that they can “afford” often find themselves paying well over 50% of their wages on housing with costs, which continue to escalate;

**And whereas** the members of the Albany Chapter of United University Professions (UUP) believe that it is entirely fair and just that workers should be paid enough to make rent AND to eat without going into crippling debt;

**And whereas** UCSC graduate student employees have refused to submit term grades until their demands are met and have been brave, creative, and community-minded in their strike tactics;

**And whereas** the university relies upon graduate student employees to provide essential teaching and mentoring for UCSC students;

**And whereas** the inability to afford food and shelter obviously and directly undermines graduate student workers’ ability to teach and mentor students effectively;

**And whereas** the UC system, like SUNY and other higher educational systems throughout the US, has over the past several decades attempted to offset shrinking state funding on the backs of students and contingent faculty;

**And whereas** the UCSC graduate students are now on the front line of the battle for a vision of public higher education in which students receive affordable, accessible education of the highest quality *while at the same time* university employees who teach courses and provide essential educational services are compensated with a fair and decent living wage;

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**So be it resolved** that President Aaron Major, on behalf of the Albany Chapter of UUP, send a copy of this resolution as a message of full solidarity to the UCSC striking graduate student employees;

**Likewise be it resolved** that Chapter President send a copy of this resolution to the UCSC Chancellor and related University and public officials, urging them to meet the entirely reasonable demands of striking graduate student workers.

**Also be it resolved** that UUP Albany donate \$200 to the USCS strike fund and encourage EC members to make individual contributions if they are able;

**And, finally, be it resolved** that UUP Albany share this resolution with GSEU as a gesture of solidarity with graduate student workers at SUNY.

Respectfully submitted, Bret Benjamin  
UUP Albany Executive Committee Meeting  
December 17, 2019

Approved by the UUP Albany Executive Committee  
December 17, 2019