

Introduction to the Resolution

Graduate students at the University of California Santa Cruz are pivotal to the success of this university in a myriad of ways. Many work as Teaching Assistants and Graduate Student Instructors while doing incredible work that earns UCSC renown and recognition. These same instrumental students are severely rent-burdened, underpaid, and placed in economically vulnerable positions. As the UCSC administration has failed to address the situation faced by these students in any meaningful way, graduate students began a wildcat strike on December 9th, 2019 to force the administration to take action.

A wildcat strike is “a work stoppage that occurs during the term of a collective bargaining agreement without the approval of union leadership and in violation of a no-strike clause. Individuals who participate in wildcat strikes are engaged in unprotected activity and may be subject to employer discipline.” [Source](#)

In the case of this strike, Teaching Assistants (TAs) are refusing to post grades until their demands for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) are met. In the initial letter submitted to Chancellor Larive on November 7th, 2019, graduate students demanded:

An ongoing payment to every graduate student that would bring us out of rent burden and to wage parity with graduate students at UC Riverside. At current rates, this amounts to \$1412 per month.

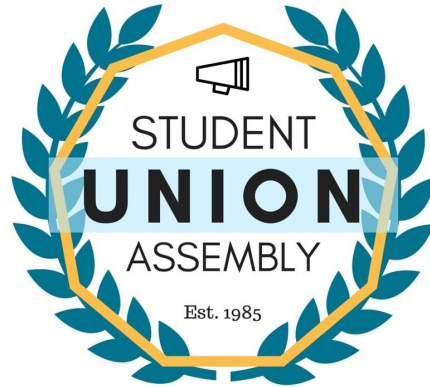
In the time since the beginning of the wildcat strike, participants have been threatened by the UCSC administration via [unscrupulous legal actions](#) that have been [thoroughly addressed](#). This resolution has been drafted for the explicit purpose of standing in solidarity with our fellow students.

For questions regarding the content of this resolution, please address them to SUA Parliamentarian Stephan Edgar at suaparli@ucsc.edu.

For questions, comments, or concerns regarding the wildcat strike, please address them to the PayUsMoreUCSC primary contact at bananaslums@gmail.com

To be kept updated about the strike and show your support, try doing the following:

1. Sign up for COLA Notifications [here](#)
2. Text “wildcat” to 844.936.0993
3. Follow on [Instagram](#)
4. Follow on [Twitter](#)



Resolution of the Student Union Assembly's Solidarity with Striking Graduate Students

WHEREAS, Graduate Students at the University of California Santa Cruz are instrumental in the success of the university and the students therein.

WHEREAS, Graduate Students are severely rent-burdened, meaning that over fifty percent of a graduate student's income is allocated towards rent.

WHEREAS, Graduate Students have repeatedly notified the UCSC administration of their situation and have demanded action since as early as September 2019.

WHEREAS, Graduate Students [submitted a letter](#) detailing their demand for a Cost of Living Adjustment on November 7th, 2019.

WHEREAS, Graduate Students have used other tactics in order to provoke meaningful action from the UCSC administration including a camp out on the base of campus on November 12th, 2019.

WHEREAS, Graduate Students fairly and democratically decided to initiate a wildcat strike via a strike poll circulated on December 6th where over 80% of currently working graduate student respondents indicated a willingness to strike now.

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz Faculty Association (SCFA) [explicitly supports](#) the demands of the graduate students alongside individual support from over three hundred members of the faculty.

WHEREAS, as of December 12th, the UCSC administration is continuing to refuse to collaborate, communicate, or otherwise address the situation faced by graduate students.

WHEREAS, the Student Union Assembly is recognized by the University of California Regents as the legitimate voice of Undergraduate Students at the University of California Santa Cruz.

WHEREAS, the [Constitution of the Student Union Assembly](#) states that the SUA shall (Article I, Section F - Purpose of the Student Union Assembly):

- promote activism, civic participation, discussion, debate, and awareness of public issues from a variety of perspectives and viewpoints.
- acknowledge and act against systems of oppression as experienced by marginalized populations on campus.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly suspends Section C.11 of the SUA Bylaws in order for this resolution to be voted on and adopted immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly explicitly supports the wildcat strike orchestrated by the Graduate Students at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly calls on the UCSC administration to immediately begin negotiations with the strikers with the intention of delivering on a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in alignment with the demands made by the strikers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly stands ready to receive and act upon requests for aid from the strikers.

This resolution was adopted by the Student Union Assembly on December 13th at 6:36pm by a Unanimous Vote: 21 to 0.