

December 21, 2019

Statement of Solidarity with UC Santa Cruz Wildcat Strike

We the undersigned faculty of the Seattle University Film Studies Program, write to express our solidarity with the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) graduate students in their struggle for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Santa Cruz is one of the most expensive cities in the nation, and striking graduate students are making a simple demand: to be paid a living wage, allowing them to afford to live where they work. The financial hardship faced by UCSC grad students, and the urgent and inspiring stand they are taking, has special resonance for us, as our program's two recent alumni of UCSC are intimately familiar with the extreme financial precarity that defines graduate student life in Santa Cruz. Moreover, we face similar struggles as part of an underpaid workforce living in an increasingly expensive locale.

We urge UCSC to meet the graduate students' demand for a \$1,417 per month COLA. Affordable access to higher education and fair compensation for faculty and staff is a systemic, nation-wide problem, requiring large scale structural reform. Unfortunately, UCSC's official response maintains the status quo by mischaracterizing the strike, threatening striking workers, and ignoring the broad level of support the strike enjoys locally and nationally. We call on the UCSC administration to stand as a model for fairness and good governance in higher education. This starts by providing a living wage to all of its employees, be they administrators, cafeteria workers, or graduate students.

An injury to one is an injury to all!

In Solidarity,

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