

Dear Sociology PhD Students:

I have met with the Chairs of our Graduate and Undergraduate Education Committees, and 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.

We want to be clear that we will not retaliate against any graduate student worker who chooses to participate in the wildcat strike. We appreciate that the strike will not affect the proctoring of exams, the literal grading of student work, and intends to support undergraduate success. Future department decisions about TA and GSI allocations will not be affected by your decisions regarding strike participation as long as you are ethical--as we know you will be--in your communication 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 reach out to us regarding your concerns. We look forward to staying in collaborative communication.

In support and on the behalf of the Sociology Faculty,  
Julie

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J Bettie, Ph.D.  
Chair and Associate Professor  
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