

## UC-AFT Supports Striking Graduate Student Workers

### Lecturers Are With the TAs!

UC-AFT Local 2199 supports UCSC graduate students' demand for a 2019 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)--a monthly stipend that allows them to continue working and studying in Santa Cruz.

We recognize that this strike is about all of us, and about the quality of the education we provide. Graduate students are not alone in shouldering unaffordability in Santa Cruz, or coping with low wages and precarity at UCSC. We lecturers in the UC-AFT are in solidarity with all those workers who are struggling economically, and all of those whose tireless work is not recognized, rewarded, and compensated, many of whom are our own members. We also staunchly support undergraduate education and recognize that belated grade reporting can be a short term burden for students; we trust that the University will protect those students whose financial aid would be affected by late grade submissions. In the mid- to long-term, however, students are much better served when the professional workers handling their education at UC can focus on our work rather than on houselessness, food insecurity, and transportation precarity. The grad student colleagues we work with strive to improve UC's mission of providing quality undergraduate education and this strike is another example of their willingness to take important and courageous steps to fix what is wrong in the system.

We are humbled and inspired by the fortitude and determination in the face of tremendous challenge demonstrated by grad student workers. They are offering the University an opportunity to make our campus more welcoming, more accessible, and more democratic--in short, a better learning environment. UC-AFT fully supports the TAs, and we join them in insisting on institutional change--now. The present institutional failure to stem overwork and debt must stop.

We call on the University to engage in good faith to meet the reasonable demands put forward by the graduate student workers, to abstain from penalizing graduate students and their supporters, and to cease the divisive rhetoric that pits faculty against graduate students.

Our working conditions are our students' learning conditions. That is the bottom line.

Representative Collective,

UC-AFT Local 2199