

Dear Chancellor Larive,

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) is the union representing 35,000 educators and health and human service professionals from pre-kindergarten to adult education in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Last January we went on a 7 day strike, along with parents, community and other unions to address the conditions and lack of resources in our schools. Over decades we have seen the divestment in public education while the privatization of our schools has grown by 287% over the past 10 years. We also went out for ourselves as educators, who deserve adequate wages, benefits and respect.

We stand in solidarity with UAW Local 2865, the union representing graduate student teaching assistants and readers at the University of California, Santa Cruz. We support the graduate students who are engaged in an unprecedented wildcat grading strike with the goal of securing a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to bring them out of rent burden in this insanely expensive housing market. Too many of their members pay more than two thirds of their paychecks directly to their landlord each month and so far, the University of California is refusing to engage with them on this pressing matter. Instead, they have responded with threats and intimidation.

Educators across the nation are participating in a “Red for Ed” strike wave. Educators are saying “enough is enough” and we are fighting for what is just and right. It is right that graduate student teaching assistants and readers at the UC Santa Cruz make a living wage. They should be able to live in the town where they work.

We lift them up and join the many other UC unions, the Santa Cruz Faculty Association, UC-AFT and the hundreds of faculty members at UC Santa Cruz who have signed petitions.

In Solidarity,

UTLA Officers

Alex Caputo-Pearl, President

Cecily Myart-Cruz, NEA VP

Juan Ramirez, AFT VP

Daniel Barnhart, Secondary VP

Gloria Martinez, Elementary VP

Alex Orozco, Treasurer

Arlene Inouye, Secretary