

## **Executive Committee**

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Vice Chair Unit 5: Glenna Kramer

Vice Chair Colleges: Merlin Charles

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Internal Liaison Officer: Farhana Islam

Grievance Officer: Jamie Ashby

Executive Director: Wayne Dealy

**Staff Representatives:** Tiffany Balducci (on Leave)

Gina Gignac

Kathy Johnson

Laura Sullivan

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December 16, 2019

CUPE 3902 stands in solidarity with UC Santa Cruz graduate student teaching assistants who began a wildcat strike on December 8. Members of the UCSC Graduate Student Association (UGSA) are refusing to hand in final grades until the UC Santa Cruz administration meets their demand for a monthly Cost of Living Adjustment.

As in Toronto, the cost of living in Santa Cruz has skyrocketed in recent years, rising at an average of 15% per year. UGSA members are demanding a Cost of Living Adjustment of \$1,412 per month in order to make studying and working at UC Santa Cruz affordable. Their decision to withhold final grades until their demand is met is the culmination of an escalating series of actions, including marches, campouts, letter writing campaigns, and an 85% strike vote.

A wildcat strike is a bold and powerful action. It is a rejection of decades of neoliberal messaging that condemns collective organizing and presents increasingly intolerable living and working conditions as inevitable. UC Santa Cruz graduate student teaching assistants have demonstrated to everyone in the sector that these realities are not inevitable and that job action remains our most powerful tool of resistance.

We join dozens of university sector unions in calling on the UC Santa Cruz administration to immediately pay out the Cost of Living Adjustment that UCSC members need to live with dignity. We also call on UC Santa Cruz faculty to support the strike and to take no actions that undermine the strike.

In solidarity,

The Executive Committee of CUPE 3902 Representing contract education workers at the University of Toronto