

Undergrads we still need your support!

Who are we struggling against?

Wednesday, December 11th:

The current UC administration has no business being in education other than that of turning education into a business. These AI Capones of the University are headed by veteran charlatan Janet Napolitano, who apparently thought that her experience as architect of the deportation of hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants, as head of Homeland Security from 2009-2013, qualified her to be President of the University of California. Napolitano's office was caught, in a recent state audit (which her office fought at every turn), secretly withholding \$175 million dollars from our own institution (SF Chronicle, 11/18/2017). Whisked away from public scrutiny, such infractions exceed even her latitude of authority. Had a portion of this vast sum gone toward financing the current multimillion dollar construction of Chancellor's Larive's new "mansion" (and they continue to say there is no money for us), Napolitano's actions may have been framed as excusable. In reality, these funds are being diverted (stolen really), from your already astronomically high tuition and from our labor. What was the penalty? Nothing nearly as severe as what this University administration is threatening us with for our "unauthorized" action. The UC system legally defrauds us, but in their view we are illegally exercising our rights.

Our struggle is gaining national news coverage. The coverage of the COLA campaign on NPR and NBC has been largely supportive, even clarifying. The University administration, however, is continually engaged in a politics of mystification. In the past, the administration could justify their actions through any number of budgetary lies and forms of financial opportunism: the fact is that this is no longer the case, and we know it. They know it too. But make no mistake, the University is not in a position to penalize us when we act together; their threats are as empty as their "commitments" to your education, inclusion, and well-being.

We should anticipate more repressive responses on behalf of the administration. They have already

started intimidating faculty, undergraduate student-workers, staff and teaching assistants, in order to break our action by entering our grades for us behind our backs. Soon enough, the administration will be telling us they are doing all of this on behalf of the "underserved," less-privileged, and most vulnerable among us. Incidentally, these are the same students the University will seek to punish most if they succeed in breaking our action. Do not fall for their trap: their rhetoric of "diversity," inclusivity, and commitment to the most vulnerable students on campus is cynical and false, a deplorable scam designed to shipwreck our movement and increase your debt. We are the authors of our own actions and we will not be isolated or intimidated. Rather than being on the defensive, we are broadening our struggle: we are now demanding a COLA 4 All!

Undergrads,

Our success has already been felt. Yesterday, hundreds of graduate student workers and undergraduates alike held a rally outside of Humanities 210, where participants spoke not only of the shared misery of our working and learning conditions in Santa Cruz but of the shared joy and power felt when we collectively act together. This event was conceived as an opportunity for the administration to "meet" and speak with us. As it turns out, they couldn't be bothered to attend, preferring to send further threatening emails instead. Given that they have not been at their usual posts at Kerr Hall for some days now, it was suggested that they were hiding out in Chancellor Larive's mansion. Regardless, their conduct has been characteristically cowardly and evasive. Their crude and confused communications fail to express basic familiarity with our situation. They claim that they cannot meet with us during an "illegal" strike; we claim we have not yet begun to strike.

No COLA, No Grades!



Universal Cost of Living Adjustment
#COLA