



CFA FULLERTON CHAPTER

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Statement of Solidarity with UC Santa Cruz Strikers from CFA Fullerton

We at California Faculty Association (CFA), Fullerton chapter, have been watching intently your struggle, which you are carrying out in the interests of us all as educators and students. We are with you, and we say an injury to one is an injury to all.

We have been inspired by your resistance to the austerity measures imposed by the University of California administration. We have seen how the UC administration has brought in riot police – at a cost of \$300,000 per day – in an effort to intimidate and crush the strike. And we have seen how you and your supporters have been brutally beaten and arrested by these riot police, and how you have stood strong in the face of this naked repression.

Your demand for a \$1,412 cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) is not just reasonable but urgent, given the stratospheric rents in Santa Cruz. And then there is the fact that the UCSC chancellor is receiving a \$6,500 per month living allowance on top of her \$450,000 salary. While the administrators live high on the hog at public expense, you, who actually perform the academic labor, have to fight to cover the bills.

Your demands speak to the desperate situation facing the whole “lower tier” of academic labor such as adjuncts, teaching assistants, grad students and others who make colleges and universities around the country run despite poverty wages, no job security and denial of even basic respect by bosses who see education as a commodity.

One of the big reasons why your struggle resonates for us, as for so many others, is that the kind of conditions you face are rampant in the Cal State system too. At our campus here at Fullerton, the overwhelming majority of classes are taught by non-tenured faculty and grad students. Without them, the school couldn't function. Yet, their pay is so low that many are forced to teach crazy amounts of classes, often at multiple campuses, just to make ends meet.

Yours is far from just a local dispute. A victorious strike would electrify legions of horribly oppressed TAs and adjunct faculty around the country who face similar conditions, and help spur education workers everywhere to fight and win.

CFA Fullerton stands with the UCSC grad student strikers and calls for **Victory to the Strike!**

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