

To graduate students at UCSC, UCSB, UC Davis, and...

We the undersigned represent graduate students all over the United States and declare our support for the graduate students at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) in their strike for Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Additionally, we recognize the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) as well as at UC Davis graduate students who have joined to demand COLA as well, proving graduate labor and the labor that supports graduate work as sites of community, resistance, and therefore solidarity. In the face of the UC Administrations threats of intimidation, threats of unemployment, and arrests, we stand with all graduate students at the University of California and beyond as they consider their conditions, too.

In 2019 the graduate students at UCSC were forced to take action when their demands for adequate compensation were met with insufficient response, leading to graduate students to respond by withholding grades. Given that the cost of living rises at an average of 15% per year in California—but wages increase at a mere 3%—graduate students report spending up to 70% of their wages on housing alone. In one of the country's most competitive housing markets, the necessary COLA would allow graduate students decent accommodations. Still, the administration's response claimed an inability to address these concerns as it is "unsanctioned" and instead adopted tactics of bullying, intimidation, arrest, and threats of termination. UC Administration's avoidance of its own students is cowardly, and its deployment of violence is inexcusable. These actions do not go unnoticed; these actions are not local.

We additionally recognize that the housing crisis burden amongst graduate students is not equally shared across disciplines. Further, we recognize the housing crisis cuts across racial and gendered lines. We recognize these as important when considering President Napolitano's threat of termination of further TA appointments will have an unequal cascading effect. We recognize these acts, in practice and in theory to be reprehensible, as the University leadership are laid bare against the graduate labor that forms the foundation of the institution. It is, frankly put, an abuse of institutional power. We also find the response from Interim Campus Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor Lori Kletzer in blatant disregard of the well-being and financial security of its graduate students. It is not lost upon us how the UC Administration's disregard for their graduate students also impacts those who support graduate work, scholarship, and life—the administrators, mentors, counselors, office managers, and the administrative ambidextrous who make it their job to help graduate students. Additionally, we recognize the undergraduates who stand with their graduate teaching assistants. These issues extend beyond a single institution of higher education, as the attitudes and policies directed at graduate students fighting for a living wage reflects poorly on the culture of academia at large as it continues to foster new generations of scholars.

The University of California must cease all retaliatory actions against strikers. We call on the UC Administration to immediately engage striking graduate students and meet COLA demands, a measure which the UC Administration has both the power and the means to achieve. We graduate students stand together with graduate students and their allies at UCSC, UCSB, and UC Davis in seizing their labor to demand reasonable living standards.

In support and solidarity,

MT, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
Adriana Green, African American & African Diaspora Studies Program, UC - Berkeley
Rachel Anspach, African American Studies, UC Berkeley
Michael J. Myers II, African American Studies
Alya Ansari, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
Luke Martin, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, UMN
Soyi Kim, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, UMN
Dzmitry Tsapkou, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
Drishadwati Bargi, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
Zosha Winegar-Schultz, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
Joseph Sannicandro, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
Paulomi Sharma, Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
Alexis Zanghi, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
Mitch Hernandez, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
Cody Jackson, English, Texas Christian University
Kenly Brown, African American Studies, UC Berkeley
C. Darius Gordon, Graduate School of Education, UC Berkeley
Ree Botts, African Diaspora Studies, UC Berkeley
Nadia Mezic, Law, University of Minnesota
Nitoshia L. Ford, African American Studies, UC Berkeley
Nicole Ubinas, African Diaspora Studies, UC Berkeley
Naima Karczmar-Britton, Department of English, UC Berkeley
Devon Moore, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
Nikolina Lazetic, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
April L. Graham-Jackson, Geography, The University of California, Berkeley
Christian Hosam, Political Science, UC Berkeley
Estelle Smith, University of Minnesota, Dept of Computer Science and Engineering
Bree Trisler, Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota
Hilary Rasch, PhD candidate, English Department, Brown University
Jeremy Meckler, Cultural Studies
& Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
Vanessa Cambier, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
Christopher Garcia-Wilde, Medicine, University of Miami
Sharifa Taylor, City & Regional Planning, UC Berkeley
Lubabah Chowdhury, English Department, Brown University
E. Ornelas, Feminist Studies PhD Student, Dept. of Gender, Women, & Sexuality Studies, UMN
Sara Seweid-DeAngelis, PhD Student, Dept. of Gender, Women, & Sexuality Studies, UMN
Jared Willard, PhD Student, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, UMN
Babak Hemmatian, PhD Candidate, Department of Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological
Sciences, Department of Computer Science, Brown University
Samantha Manz, MA student, Department of History, Washington State University
Melody Chapin, PhD Student, Music Department, Brown University
Katherine Thompson, PhD Student, Department of Anthropology, Brown University

David Zegeye, PhD Student, Dept. of Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of Chicago
Laura Perez Munoz, PhD Student, Romance Languages & Literatures, Harvard University
Naimah Zulmadelle Petigny, PhD Candidate, Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies,
University of Minnesota
Andy Fitzgerald, PhD Candidate, Communication, Stanford University
AK Wright, PhD student, Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies
Massiel Torres Ulloa, PhD student, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures,
Harvard University
Ezra J. Teboul, Ph.D. Candidate, Electronic Arts, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Jacob Eddy, MA Student, The Media School, Indiana University
Keoni Correa, PhD Student, Rhetoric Department, UC Berkeley
James Uanhoro, PhD Candidate, Educational Studies, Ohio State University
Juan Pedro Lamata, PhD Candidate, English, Stanford University
Rebecca Lewis, PhD student, Communication, Stanford University
Morgan Poindexter, PhD Candidate, Immunology, UC Davis
Trent McDonald, PhD Student, English, Washington University in St. Louis
Christopher Torres-Lugo, PhD Student,
Justine Modica, PhD Candidate, Stanford University
Computer Science, Indiana University Bloomington
Kathryn Holt, PhD Candidate, Dance Studies, Ohio State University
Gregory Keiser, PhD Student, Psychology, Washington State University
Kathleen E. Farley, PhD Candidate, Biology, Rutgers University
Sabrina Lewis, Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley
Rebecca Li, UC Berkeley
Nate Beard, PhD Student, Information Studies, University of Maryland
Danyel Ferrari, PhD Student, School of Communication and Information, Department of Media
Studies, Rutgers University
Paulina Acosta, Department of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University
Nathan Ellstrand, PhD Candidate, Department of History, Loyola University Chicago (and UCSC
alum)
Mo Kaze, PhD Candidate School of Natural Sciences University of California, Merced, DOE
Fellow @ the Joint Genome Institute and UC Santa Cruz alum
Andrew Eneim, PhD Student, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Biochemistry, Cellular, and
Molecular Biology Program (UCR Alum)
Madina Thiam, PhD candidate, History, UCLA
Perry Maddox, PhD student, Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University
Heba Islam, PhD student, Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University
NC, UC Riverside
Sam Menefee-Libey, PhD student, Anthropology, American University
Raya Steier, Alumni, UC Davis School of Law
Max Gear, PhD student, Anthropology, Columbia University
Jonathan R. Quenga Borja, PhD Student, American Studies, University of Minnesota
Sam Law, PhD Student, Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin

Benjamin Drury, Executive Director [Chicago Education Advocacy Cooperative](#)
Thong Vang, PhD Student, Curriculum and Instruction Department, University of Minnesota
Joshua N. Morrison, Graduate Instructor, Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Jasmine Baxter, PhD student, Communication Studies, University of Minnesota
Noah Jefferson, PhD student, Curriculum & Instruction, University of Minnesota
Rebekah Dunlap, UMN Doctorate of Nursing student
Tina Catania, PhD Candidate, Geography, Syracuse University
Nicole Moeller Gonzalez, PhD student, Geography, Syracuse University
Sarah Cho, PhD Candidate, Communication, UMass Amherst
David Miller, postdoctoral fellow, Cornell University
Dylan Z. Siegel, MA Student, Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University
Demiliza Saramosing, PhD Student, American Studies University of Minnesota
Maria Harvey, Teaching Affiliate, University of Cambridge
Gabriela Salvidea, PhD Candidate, English, Stanford University
Jessie Smorodin Sarber, MAT, PhD student, Curriculum and Instruction, Culture and Teaching
Joshua Lovell, PhD candidate, University of Cambridge
Guilherme Nettesheim, Research Associate, University of Cambridge
Patricia Freitas dos Santos, Department of History, Brown University
Jillian Kern, PhD student, Department of English and Comparative Literature, UNC Chapel Hill (and UC Davis class of 2014)
Beckett Warzer, PhD Student, Dept. of Theater Arts & Performance Studies, Brown University
Delaney M. Piper, MA student, Department of History, Washington State University
Emily Mitamura, PhD candidate, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota
Hannah Mieczkowski, PhD Candidate, Department of Communication, Stanford University
Tushar Mehta, PhD student, Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University
Sheharyar Imran, PhD student, Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University
Miriam Gonzales, PhD candidate, Departments of English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Penn State
Caroline N. Bayne, PhD student, Department of Communication Studies, University of Minnesota
Cynthia Gao, PhD Student, American Studies, New York University
Ipek Ece Sener, PhD Student, Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis
Michelle Lee, PhD Candidate, American Studies, University of Minnesota
Sebastian Link, PhD Student of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University
Sarah L. Richardson, PhD candidate, Anthropology, The George Washington University
Rye Gentleman, PhD Candidate, Theatre Arts and Dance, University of Minnesota
Khoi Nguyen, PhD Student, American Studies, University of Minnesota
Grace M. V. Ward, PhD candidate, Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis
Kaitlyn Quaranta, PhD Candidate, French Studies, Brown University
Peter Malonis, PhD Candidate, Computational Neuroscience, University of Chicago
Rithika Ramamurthy, PhD Candidate, English, Brown University

William Biel, PhD Candidate, Medieval Studies, University of Connecticut
Selena J. Palomino, PhD Student, Communication Studies, University of Minnesota
Mia Kang, PhD Student, History of Art, Yale University
Gavi Levy Haskell, PhD Student, History of Art, Yale University
Mohit Manohar, PhD Candidate, History of Art, Yale University
eunha jeong wood, PhD Student, Gender, Women, & Sexuality Studies, University of
Minnesota, Twin Cities
Ronay Bakan, PhD Student, Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University
Chiraag Nataraj, PhD Candidate, School of Engineering, Brown University
Anna Olsavsky, PhD Candidate, Department of Human Sciences, The Ohio State University
Alexandra M. Thomas, Phd Student, African American Studies and History of Art, Yale
University
Isabella Shey Robbins, PhD Student, History of Art, Yale University
Thomas Mann, PhD student, Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University
Thomas Hansberger, PhD Candidate, Department of Philosophy, Marquette University