

To University of California President, Janet Napolitano, University of California Santa Cruz Chancellor, Cynthia Larive, and Executive Vice Chancellor, Lori Kletzer:

We, the Stanford Solidarity Network, write to express our solidarity with and support of UC Santa Cruz graduate students and strikers. As an organization of Stanford University graduate students, postdocs, and alumni, we urge you to take immediate action towards the cost of living adjustment without retaliation or an increase in tuition or campus fees. As students' testimonies and organized actions reveal, the payment they receive is inadequate.

Graduate students at UC Santa Cruz, who earn an average of \$2,400/month, reside in a county with an average rent of \$2242/month for a one-bedroom apartment. Balancing this hostile housing market with other basic living expenses, on top of straining to perform academically as students and teachers, is simply an unsustainable and unjust position.

The wildcat strike may be unauthorized, but it is not unconscionable nor unfounded. Ultimately, the University of California Santa Cruz thrives on the labor, academic discipline, intellectual power, creativity, and, most importantly, holistic well-being of its graduate student workforce. Indeed, the move to meet strikers' demands for an additional \$1,412/month can only constitute an absolute triumph for the university and higher education institutions all over the country, demonstrating a courageous and ethical commitment to the lives of UC Santa Cruz's student workers as well as respect for their contributions and labor, upon which the university's success depends.

Unfortunately, we have witnessed deplorable scenes instead—the deployment of more than 100 riot police upon peacefully protesting students, the violent repression and arrest of protesters, shameful intimidation tactics aimed at international students, divisive strategies to expose protesting TAs, and escalating tensions amidst the threat of expelling striking graduate students.

We are in solidarity with our colleagues at UC Santa Cruz as they struggle to earn a living wage and to ensure that they and future graduate students at UCSC will be able to live and work under just conditions. We urge you to agree to their demands immediately.

--The Stanford Solidarity Network