

UPTE-CWA Local 6 Condemns Violence by UC Santa Cruz Police Against UC Santa Cruz Students

February 13th 2020

The UPTE-CWA Local 6 executive board from UC Davis voted Wednesday night to condemn the violence that is being used against peaceful striking UC Santa Cruz graduate students. These students deserve to be heard and respected not to be treated with contempt and met with violence from the police meant to provide security.

UC Santa Cruz students are protesting low wages in a community that has one of the highest rental costs in the country. The students have been peacefully assembling to force UC administration to negotiate with them for a cost of living increase to offset the high rents and other living costs in Santa Cruz. The high cost of rent in Santa Cruz has been an issue for decades and UC administration has failed to address the situation adequately despite their admitted awareness of the problem.

The striking students have been met with batons and armed police rather than with negotiators from the UC administration. A student arrested Monday for trying to deliver water to the picket line was assaulted and has been diagnosed with a concussion according to news reports. Seventeen strikers were arrested on Wednesday and reports of more violence, with students being battered and bruised, have been made by students and in the press.

UPTE-CWA Local 6 hopes that UC will make a good faith effort to negotiate with students and deal with the housing crisis rather than hiding behind a contract that does not specifically address the housing crisis.

UPTE-CWA Local 6 UC Davis Executive Board

Lucy Joseph, Chair Legislative and Political Committee

Samrrah Raouf, Vice-President UC Davis Medical Center Campus