



Stronger Together

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To: UC Regents

From: Bay Area Higher Education Group (BAHE), SEIU Local 1021.
Representing adjunct faculty of the California College of the Arts, Dominican University, Holy Names University, Mills College, Notre Dame De Namur University, San Francisco Art Institute, Saint Mary's College.

SEIU Local 1021

Dear UC Regents,

The Bay Area Higher Education Group of SEIU Local 1021 representing adjunct faculty at seven California Bay Area colleges and universities (California College of the Arts, Dominican University, Holy Names University, Mills College, Notre Dame De Namur University, San Francisco Art Institute, Saint Mary's College) is writing in wholehearted solidarity with the graduate student workers at UC Santa Cruz. We support the graduate students' demand for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of \$1,412 per month to enable a decent standard of living while they engage in academic labor.

We support the students as academic laborers ourselves, who understand intimately the precariousness faced by so many instructors who form the backbone of higher education institutions, through excellence in teaching, professional achievement, and student support. We understand that this precariousness has been created and enforced by decades of policies and practices in higher education whereby funding is allocated to inflated administrations and exorbitant administrative salaries and stipends, while those workers without whom the colleges and institutions would not function are cynically refused livable compensation. Unfortunately, UCSC's official response to the graduate students' utterly reasonable demand maintains this status quo.

Like UCSC graduate students, we experience the strain of trying to live on meager wages that are so misaligned with the cost of living in the places where we work. Like UCSC graduate students, we take seriously the responsibility we have been entrusted with in providing our students with high quality and critical classroom experiences. And like UCSC graduate students we know that working collectively to resist the exploitation of our labor is the engine that will generate social justice in the landscape of higher education. We are inspired by their righteousness and tenacity.

In Solidarity,

Elin Christopherson
on behalf of SEIU Local 1021 Bay Area Higher Ed Division

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