

Tuesday 18 FEBRUARY 2020  
day #6 – news on the picketline

# YOURS VERY TRULY

As our first full week of picketing drew to a close on Friday, many of expected to take the weekend to rest and begin to analyze our situation after the violent experiences we had shared. Happily, UC's head hall monitor Janet Napolitano stepped in to make the stakes of our situation clear. In a shameless Valentine's Day note that ordered us back to the classroom, Napolitano declared that strikers would face harsh penalties if they did not submit grades and end the picket line. At the moment, the administration, seeking always to uphold its own prerogatives, provides no guarantees even for those who do submit grades. It has fixed a deadline for striking students "to submit all missing grades, to end the strike and to fulfill their contractual obligations . . . Those who do not submit full grade information by February 21 will not receive spring quarter appointments or will be dismissed from their spring quarter appointments," EVC Lori Kletzer has said.

"President" Napolitano, echoing this threat, admonished us for our "unsanctioned" actions and demanded we return to work; in exchange for this concession—apparently, the privilege of not being fired—we simply continue to live and work in the same poverty and debt we've endured all along. The despot has spoken her final word and stepped out from behind the curtain of bureaucratic unfeasibility, finally admitting what has long been merely implicit: there is no obscure, legal technicality preventing fair dealing, no insurmountable budgetary impediment, no blame that can be shifted about how "complex" the situation is. While we do not doubt the seriousness of the threat of mass dismissal (UCOP is, after all, nothing if not a repressive office), we believe the best course of action available to us is to spread the strike: to other UC campuses, to other layers of faculty, staff, and undergraduates. In addition to deepening the impact of the strike at UCSC, this would put immense pressure on the broader UC system, and UCOP in particular.

Once Napolitano stripped away all the administrative excuses we've been given these last months (years, really), what remained is only the arbitrary "authority" of the upper echelons of UC administration, and their desire to crush this movement at any price. In Napolitano's UC, "public institution" does not mean that the people decide, but that the state does, and that it will exercise its power through its monopoly on violence. All these constantly escalating displays of police force, all the administrative threats, the sham student conduct hearings, and the serving of campus bans have culminated in some remarkable clarity from Napolitano: we will threaten, punish, and beat you into submission, but we will not reopen negotiations. Thank you, Janet, for presenting such a precise synthesis of our first week of experiences on the picket.

The legitimacy of their "authority" to rule has evaporated, and the fact that we have exposed this so quickly is a rejection of the power that we have built. In the meantime, our momentum, our numbers, and our solidarity with others has spurred us to act in bolder ways. We take this strike as seriously as anyone, and it is ours to win. Renewed support, however, has been pouring in from elsewhere. Academic petitions to boycott the UC; commitments from other campuses to strike if any single one of us are fired next quarter, or to strike regardless, have been brewing over the weekend; the ruthless austerity regime of the University of California has once again been thrust into the public eye (if the UC's official model is "Let there be Light," they officially deny this in practice - shine a light on administrative dealings, and all the rats begin to scurry).

For all we know, "Fuck the UC" is more Napolitano's motto than our own. Fighting austerity on this level means saving the University of California as a public institution, as well as the very notion of an education from the bottom up more broadly. Let's dethrone these crooks and return the university to the public that it pretends to serve. If "the wildcat strike must come to an end" so must this administration; both will be tested this week. Sticking together now means we are able to act together next week.

One day longer, one day stronger.

## STRIKE TO WIN.



**URGENT:**  
if you have photos or videos  
of police violence,  
send directly to our lawyer at  
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