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**Five College Women's Studies Research Center Supports Striking Graduate Student Workers at UCSC and other UC Campuses**

The Five College Women's Studies Research Center (South Hadley, MA) stands in solidarity with the striking graduate students at the University of California Santa Cruz, as well as those striking in solidarity at other University of California campuses. We admire their willingness to act and commitment in the face of incredible adversity.

We condemn the February 28 firing of about 80 graduate students, who were withholding their fall grades, from their spring appointments. These students will face deep financial precarity; additionally, international students risk deportation, and chronically ill students will lose health care coverage, just as the State of California declares a state of emergency in the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We join the chorus that calls for the immediate reinstatement of these graduate student workers.

We are also concerned by emerging reports of retaliatory student suspensions. Strikes and peaceful protests are exercises of free speech, not violations of student conduct codes. We reject any efforts to monitor and target students for retaliatory suspensions.

We fully support the UCSC strikers' demands for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of \$1412 a month to meet the extremely high housing costs in Santa Cruz, as well as calls for similar adjustments on other UC campuses. Graduate student workers can neither study nor teach if they do not have housing and food security. We agree that Chancellor's offer of a one-time need-based supplement is insufficient and unsustainable.

We stand in solidarity with graduate students at UC Santa Barbara, UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, and UCLA who are organizing to gain support for grading or teaching strikes. The fact that grad students at other UC campuses quickly came to the support of UCSC's strike, but also used its momentum to raise their own cost-of-living issues, highlights a widespread and shared grievance, and at least two systemic problems: an unsustainable reliance on underpaid graduate labor, and the out-of-control cost of housing in California. These problems exist throughout US higher education, and we support any and all graduate student efforts to extend strikes beyond the UC system.

UC Santa Cruz has long been a generative hub of radical feminist scholarship, an academic home to luminaries such as Professor Angela Davis and the late Gloria Anzaldúa. Their work should inform the university's labor policies.

Our number includes alumni of the UC system, including those who have worked at TAs under the same conditions being called into question now. We understand the unreasonable demands placed on TAs and their labor, and support all efforts to improve those conditions for current students and those to come.

Signed (in alphabetical order),

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