

Chancellor Cynthia Larive
Chancellor's Office
Kerr Hall, University of Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

February 29, 2020

Dear Chancellor Larive,

We are academics and higher education advocates writing in strong condemnation of the recent decision by Dean of Graduate Studies Quentin Williams and UCSC Executive Vice Chancellor Lori Kletzer to terminate the contracts of 54 graduate students and teaching assistants working at UC Santa Cruz. This draconian measure has put vulnerable SC community members in severe financial and legal jeopardy, casting their futures into doubt as they are forced to drop out of school or even leave the country. The move makes it clear that the University of California administrative body sets little value on the labor of contingent faculty. Graduate students working as teaching and research assistants are integral to the collective mission and success of the University of California system, and should be granted compensation that recognizes their status as employees in one of the most expensive states in the nation.

We urge the university to reinstate the fired strikers to full employment status, enter into good faith negotiations for a reasonable Cost of Living Adjustment, and make every effort to curtail the disruption this is causing for UC undergraduate and graduate students. As long as the current policies are in place and the University of California continues to think of its graduate students as disposable, we will discourage our students from enrolling in graduate programs and our faculty from attending conferences there.

Sincerely,

Siân Silyn Roberts, Queens College, CUNY (Assoc. Prof.)
Tad Davies, Harvard (U.C. Irvine Alum)
Brian Sweeney, College of St. Rose (Assoc. Prof. and Chair of English)
Duncan Faherty, CUNY Graduate Center
Talia Schaffer, CUNY Graduate Center
Hillary Miller, Queens College, CUNY
Jason Tougaw, Queens College, CUNY
Fred L. Gardaphe, Queens College, CUNY
Gloria Fisk, Queens College (Assoc. Prof.) and UCSD alum
Annmarie S. Drury, Queens College, CUNY (Assoc. Prof.)
Bill Broun, East Stroudsburg University (Assoc. Prof.)
Francesca Hyatt, Queens College, CUNY
Andrea Walkden, Queens College, CUNY (Assoc. Prof.)

John Funchion, University of Miami
Veronica Schanoes, Queens College, CUNY (Assoc. Prof.)
Hugh English, Queens College-CUNY
Miles Grier, Queens College-CUNY
Ala Alryyes, Queens College-CUNY
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Cliff Mak, Queens College-CUNY and UC Berkeley alum
Alexandra Meric, Queens College-CUNY
Richard Marotta, Queens College-CUNY
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Christopher Williams, Queens College, CUNY
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