

Solidarity Statement with UCSC and UC Workers

March 4, 2020

The English Graduate Organization (EGO) at The Ohio State University (OSU), as representatives of the graduate students in the Department of English, stands in firm solidarity with the striking graduate student workers at the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) and other UC campuses. We write in support of their reasonable demands for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of \$1,412 to afford the cost of living, food security, and access to medication in Santa Cruz, CA. We recognize that their demands are informed by the ongoing struggle to survive in one of the most expensive housing markets in the U.S. Since the UC system refused to institute a COLA before the strike, we support the graduate student workers as they withhold grades and strike work to demand a salary that meets their most basic of needs.

We condemn the actions taken by the UC system to shut down the Wildcat strike. The UC system's firing and refusal to renew the teaching contracts of more than 80 graduate student workers asking for a livable salary demonstrates a lack of understanding of the conditions under which successful research and teaching take place. We urge UC administrators to reinstate and engage in good faith with these student workers, many of whom are people of color, international students, parents as well as disabled, undocumented, and queer folx. The paper-arrest of 17 graduate students and the brutalization of nonviolent protesters by UC police and other law enforcement paid by the UC system constitutes a de-facto militarization of the UCSC campus that is counterproductive to UC's academic mission of "discovering and advancing knowledge."

As graduate students in the Department of English in solidarity with the striking UCSC graduate students, we are committed to showing our support in the following ways: since the basis of the strike is dire financial need and the striking workers are incurring loss of pay and livelihood, we are committed to circulating the GoFundMe page set up for striking workers at UCSC; we will distribute information on the strike through social media and campus email channels, and we ask folx to show their support for the strike by either donating to the GoFundMe or sharing these links widely.

For more information and resources,

[Click on this link to be directed to the **GoFundMe** page created to collect funds for folx on strike.](#)

[Click on this link to read Leckrone "Grad Students Win Faculty Support as Strike Over Stipends Continues at Santa Cruz" from **The Chronicle of Higher Education**, published February 2020.](#)

[Click on this link to read Davis et al. “The USCS Strike is working” from **Jacobinmag.com**, published February 2020.](#)

[Click on this link to read Hussain “UC Santa Cruz fires 54 graduate student workers striking for higher pay” from the **Los Angeles Times**, published February 2020.](#)

[Click on this link to read Leckrone and Mangan “Grad Students Withheld Grades for Higher Pay. Now They’ve Been Fired” from **The Chronicle of Higher Education**, published February 2020.](#)

[Click on this link to read Douglas-Gabriel “UC-Santa Cruz fires 54 graduate assistants for withholding grades in ongoing labor dispute” from **The Washington Post**, published February 2020.](#)

[Click on this link to read Ibarra “Fired UCSC grad students speak out, campus prepares for impacts” from **Santa Cruz Sentinel**, published March, 2020.](#)