UCSC Alumni Statement In Support of Graduate Student Workers on Strike March 10, 2020

We, the undersigned, received our degrees from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and now teach and work at institutions of higher learning across the United States and the world. We write in support of the graduate student workers on strike and fired from their jobs at UCSC.

Indeed, many of us participated in early efforts to organize and unionize graduate student workers in the UC system in the 1990s and early 2000s. We all know too well the adversities and precarities experienced by student workers trying to meet rising costs of living on TA salaries. We are aghast, appalled, and concerned that our *alma mater* would fire 54 Teaching Assistants and rescind TAships from others. These actions counter the core principles of UC Santa Cruz. Many of these graduate students are international students and/or students of color with families, forced to allocate 50-70% of their meager earnings on housing. These actions negatively affect the image of the institution and will have pernicious effects in its future enrollments both at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

We believe that graduate student workers are key to educating past, present, and future generations and to producing quality research at R-1 institutions such as UCSC. The success of the University of California depends on equity and just wages for all of its workers. We urge the administration to reconsider its actions and we demand that the University of California reinstate TAships to all the fired graduate student workers and raise their salaries commensurate with COLA.

Signed

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