



**California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO**

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MEDIA ADVISORY FOR:

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Contact: Bob Samuels, 805/680-2719

Mike Rotkin, 831/345-8469

Faculty, staff and students unite to protest UC's priority crisis

On Thursday, September 24 a wave of protests will wash over University of California campuses to draw attention to what protest organizers are saying is not a revenue crisis, but a "priority crisis." UC administrators' and trustees' arbitrary decisions to impose layoffs, furloughs, and skyrocketing student fees have sparked resistance throughout the institution.

Members of the University Professionals and Technical Employees, CWA, will walk off the job at each UC campus and be joined on their picket lines by members of other unions, senate faculty and students. UC administrators are claiming that the state budget crisis is forcing their hand. Not so, says UCSC lecturer and vice president of the UC-AFT, Mike Rotkin: "Only 17% of the UC budget comes from the state. UC has more overall revenue this year than ever. The administration just wants to spend it on things other than a quality undergraduate education." Rotkin estimates that around one quarter of the system's 4,000 lecturers—who teach the majority of classes in many disciplines—are being laid off.

According to UC-AFT president and UCLA lecturer Bob Samuels, "UC doesn't need to raise student fees again. The administration is using the fiscal crisis to reduce compensation at the lower end while increasing compensation at the top, and to shift resources from undergraduate education to the "profit centers" of the university."

CFT president Marty Hittelman notes that "UC administrators and the governor share an inability to prioritize students. A quality education for all should come before tax loopholes for the rich and corporations, and student access to education should come before enormous salaries for administrators."

WHAT:	UC walkouts, teach-ins, pickets & rallies
WHEN:	Thursday, September 24
WHERE:	UC campuses across the state
Note:	Timing and specific actions will vary from campus to campus. Call for times and locations.

The CFT represents certificated and classified employees from early childhood through the University of California. UC-AFT represents lecturers and librarians throughout the UC system.

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