



Governor Gavin Newsom  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

December 5, 2022

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing to implore you to do everything in your power to immediately resolve the instructional crisis caused by the repeated failures of the University of California (UC) to bargain in good faith with its 37,000 academic student employees and student researchers represented by the United Auto Workers (UAW 2865 and SRU-UAW). The UC must be held accountable for the disruption to the continuity of instruction for its students and faculty this fall.

The UC's intransigence and repeated unfair labor practices throughout the bargaining process—which have pushed UAW academic employees to legally strike for more than 3 weeks—have negatively impacted its roughly 230,000 undergraduate and 64,000 graduate students. To allow this disruption to continue into the new year—which seems to be the UC President's plan—has and will continue to create unnecessary chaos for UC students and faculty for the duration of the 2022-23 school year.

We need your leadership and action to help us avoid such an outcome. We call on you to impress upon UC President Drake and the UC Board of Regents that 1) they must pay living wages to all of their workers, including academic student employees and student researchers, and 2) the California state government is willing to sufficiently reinvest in public higher education to enable all of our schools to pay instructors living wages.

I make this request as President of the University Council-American Federation of Teachers (UC-AFT, AFT Local 1474), which represents 350 librarians and over 5,000 non-Senate teaching faculty in the UC system. We teach roughly one third of all undergraduate credit hours in the UCs, and know first-hand that the UC's unwillingness to pay fair and living wages hurts its workers. Until we ratified a new contract for our teaching faculty in 2021, many of our own members earned less per course than the teaching assistants with whom they worked.

We believe that the UC is pitting faculty against graduate student workers during this strike, and we ask for your relief from the impossible situation that the UC has created, which continues to harm UC students.

Sincerely,

Katie Rodger, PhD  
UC-AFT, AFT Local 1474 President  
Continuing Lecturer, UC Davis



