

News About Actions the Week of November 14, 2011

November 14, 2011

This letter is being sent to all UCSC Academic Senate Faculty and Emeriti

To our UCSC Academic Senate Faculty Colleagues:

The Council of UC Faculty Associations (CUCFA, the umbrella and coordinating body for nine campus FAs, including SCFA) has joined with the AAUP, the CFA's Campaign for the Future of Higher Education, many unions, many students and student organizations, and many new organizations that have sprung up within the last year or less, to stand against the privatization of public higher education in the United States.

"Privatization" is a word that covers a lot, and CUCFA and its constituent FAs are supporting or endorsing many different actions and organizations engaged in many different activities.

This note is to inform UCSC faculty about some major actions this week of Nov 14, 2011 and to let you know about SCFA's stand on them.

- The Regents will meet on November 16, 2011. They will consider further tuition hikes. About 1500 students, reportedly, have signed up to go by bus to protest outside the meeting. CUCFA will have a presence at the student rally.
 - SCFA urges faculty not to penalize their UCSC students who absent themselves from class to join this rally.
- Last Wednesday, November 9, 2011, students at many UC campuses held rallies and marches.
 - At UCSC, things were peaceful (and we congratulate EVC Galloway as well as the Chancellor for the way they handled the rally on campus at midday).
 - On November 9 at UC Berkeley, by contrast, police attacked students and several faculty members. It made national news and outraged UCB faculty and students alike.
 - the ACLU and the National Lawyers Guild wrote to UCB's Chancellor and its Chief of Police the next day (November 10) to demand documents under the Public Records Act and to demand an investigation. Click on the left of this letter for a pdf of their letter.
 - A day or two later, the General Assembly of the Re-Fund California and/or Occupy Cal movement/s called for a one-day UC wide strike (Tue Nov 15) against privatization and against

police brutality. We want to inform you of the UCB GA's decision.

- The Berkeley FA, Davis FA, and San Diego FA have "endorsed" and "support" this strike. A rally with faculty speakers (among others) will take place at Davis at noon on Tuesday. Moreover, an emergency meeting of the UCB Academic Senate for this week has been called for in order to discuss "the situation."
- At this juncture, in a rapidly evolving political situation, the SCFA Board has not had time to poll itself or its membership concerning its endorsement (or not) of the Nov 15 one-day strike, and in any case we are not at this time promoting a strike on the UCSC campus.

We are appalled when there is police brutality on any campus in response to peaceful protest. And we will be appalled and dismayed if any untoward events occur on Nov. 16 in conjunction with the Regents' meeting.

The U.C. has been privatized at an accelerated and accelerating pace during the last several years. We are appalled by the likely effects of these developments on our students and staff as well as on the terms and conditions of our own employment. Some of these effects are already manifest. Most immediately, we are dismayed by the tuition increases at UC and the growing and hugely destructive amount of student debt in this country.

For these reasons, regardless of any actions or inaction you are considering taking this week, we urge you at least not to penalize your UCSC students who absent themselves from class to participate in strikes or rallies on these issues.

Cordially,
Shelly Errington
for the Executive Board

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Shelly Errington
Professor of Anthropology