Dear Colleagues,

The Executive Board of the SCFA supports the May 7-9 AFSCME strike, and justice for AFSCME workers. These workers-our colleagues-make the university run, and, we urge members to do all they can do-on the picket line, in Senate committee, in advocacy with administrators, and in conversations with colleagues and students-to help them achieve their aims. Our local AFSCME branch is still looking for faculty willing to speak at rallies at the base of campus. Please contact Legislative and Political Organizer Mary Virginia Watson at mvwatson@afscme3299.org to volunteer, or to learn what else you can do.

For further information on the strike and related issues, please see the post below with links to sources, reproduced from Michael Meranze and Chris Newfield's blog "Reclaiming the University".

In Solidarity,

SCFA Executive Board

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UC Service and Patient Care workers will be going on strike from Monday May 7 to Wednesday May 9. AFSCME, the union representing these workers, has been negotiating with UC for over a year with little success and the University had imposed a settlement for the 2017-18 fiscal year. As the union indicates here the University’s latest offer includes pay raises between 2 and 3% (depending on your workplace) combined with a freezing of step increases for 5 years, a rise in health care costs, and a shift to less retirement support. Given that inflation is now hovering around 2% this can hardly be considered the generous offer the University insists it is.

To make matters worse, service and patient care workers are already among the lowest paid workers at UC. As a recent AFSCME Study made clear inequality within UC has been increasing dramatically over the recent past. UC’s lowest paid workers already face difficulties making ends meet. (26) This general inequality is compounded by racial and gender inequities that run throughout the UC workforce.
Compounding the issue is UC’s continued insistence on its right to sub-contract out its labor needs. Despite all the fanfare a few years ago about UC’s policy of paying $15 an hour to its workers, that promise does not extend consistently to sub-contractors. As UC expands its use of sub-contractors the living conditions of its lowest paid workers worsens dramatically. (26-27)

There are a variety of places you can go to find ways to support the strikers:

CA-AAUP has a statement HERE

AFSCME Strike Locations can be found HERE

AFSCME's statement on the negotiations can be found HERE

The AFSCME report on Inequality at UC can be found HERE