Dear Colleagues,

The Executive Board of the Santa Cruz Faculty Association supports the May 16 AFSCME/UPTE strike, and justice for AFSCME/UPTE workers. These workers -- our colleagues -- make the university run, and we urge SCFA members and other concerned faculty to do all they can do -- on the picket line, in Senate committees, in advocacy with administrators, and in conversations with colleagues and students -- to help them achieve their aims. Outsourcing is a threat to all of us who work at UC, and we feel it is of particular urgency to hold the line at this stage. We urge you to show support by joining the picket line (any time between 12am-7pm) and the noon rally at the base of campus if and when you can.

We have pasted a flier below explaining AFSCME and UPTE's reasons for calling a strike. We stand with our fellow workers.

In Solidarity,
SCFA Executive Board
Over the last two years - while we have been fighting for a fair contract - UC executives have been working to expand their ability to break our power, this time by outsourcing our work to private contractors.

First we learned about the Rehab Hospital in Davis, where UC plans to eliminate nearly 40 jobs by contracting out work to a "joint venture" with for-profit Kindred Healthcare. UC is refusing to bargain, and long-time UC employees will be forced to re-apply for their current jobs with the new company, losing their UC pay and benefits, or be reassigned elsewhere at UC Davis outside the areas of their specialties.

Then we learned about their plan to outsource $55,000,000 in IT services across all 5 UC Medical Centers, including UPTE members’ work.

Just weeks ago we discovered a plan authorizing the outsourcing of more than $150,000,000 of clinical, non-clinical, and IT jobs at the Medical Centers. UC entered into this agreement with no notice to the union, and already, departments are starting to outsource UPTE work to the private contractor.

UC’s move to bypass the union by negotiating these agreements in secret is yet another flagrant violation of our rights.

If we don’t stand up to UC’s ongoing violation of the law, in an attempt to undermine our union and the standards we have fought for, what message will that send?

Visit UPTE.org to sign a strike pledge, sign up for a picket shift, and join us on the picket line on May 16th for all shifts beginning between 12am and 11:59pm!