Dear Colleagues,

For your information, we have posted below a letter that the SCFA co-chairs sent to Labor Relations at UCOP.

Sincerely yours,
The SCFA Co-Chairs
Chris Connery
Deborah Gould
Ronnie Lipschutz

January 17, 2020

Peter Chester
Executive Director, Labor Relations
University of California Office of the President
Peter.Chester@ucop.edu

Systemwide Labor Relations
300 Lakeside Dr., 4th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-3550

Dear Peter Chester,

We, the Santa Cruz Faculty Association ("SCFA"), write out of concern about the housing crisis
facing our graduate students at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Our graduate students have
demonstrated the severity of the crisis in their efforts to focus the University's attention on it. We
fully support their desire to secure dignity in their living conditions, including a cost-of-living
increase.

It goes without saying that the proximity of Silicon Valley and the unique economic dynamic
there has driven the cost of living in Santa Cruz far beyond nearly any other public university
community. This puts inordinate pressure on all our students. Our graduate students in particular are
expected to be financially independent. A number of them even support families of their own. The
strain is especially acute for first-generation students, as well as those from economically
marginalized communities.

SCFA is encouraged that UAW Local 2865 has opened a dialogue with the University, asking to
bargain over graduate-student compensation. We maintain our strong belief that a collectively
bargained resolution centered on the role of students as employees would be best for the entire
University community. In our view, it would only strengthen the bargaining relationship for the
University to engage with Local 2865 or its designated representatives over measures to address the
housing crisis, including a cost-of-living adjustment. We therefore urge the Office of the President
to work with Local 2865 to reach a resolution. We also urge UCSC to give its support to the Office
of the President for dialogue with Local 2865.

We further insist that the University not take any disciplinary action against UC Santa Cruz
community members who have participated in, supported, or respected the graduate students' labor
action. Our graduate students are indispensable to our work and the University's mission. SCFA
reiterates that faculty members, like other UC employees, have a right to stand together with them.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Chris Connery
Deborah Gould
Ronnie Lipschutz
SCFA Co-Chairs

cc. Cynthia K. Larive, UCSC Chancellor
Lori Kletzer, Interim Campus Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
Jennifer L Schiffner, Director of Employee & Labor Relations
SCFA Executive Board