

April 20, 2020

Dear Anthropology Graduate Students,

Anthropology faculty met on April 15 to discuss strike-related issues and would like to convey the following points.

First, we recognize the extreme rent burden faced by graduate students within the UC system and at UCSC in particular and support a cost of living adjustment for graduate students.

Second, we reaffirm our assurance that the department will not retaliate against graduate students based on their decisions to participate (or not participate) in the strike. We continue to affirm that our decisions about TA and GSI allocations, fellowships, and other resources will not be affected by decisions regarding strike participation.

Third, we want to make clear that department practice has been, and continues to be, that we are not replacing TA or GSI positions vacated by the formal dismissal or firing of a TA or GSI by the administration for grade withholding or other collective actions related to the strike. Nor is the department soliciting readers to replace the labor of a dismissed TA. We have solicited readers for some courses for spring quarter, but not courses that originally were assigned a TA who was formally dismissed by the administration. We are committed to these practices for the spring quarter and summer sessions. We will review these practices for future quarters as necessary.

Graduate students constitute an invaluable part of our community, its intellectual life, and its research and teaching missions. We will continue to work to find creative ways to support you under the difficulty conditions we all face, and into the future.

Sincerely,

The Faculty of the Department of Anthropology