

SOLIDARITY WITH UC STUDENT WORKERS, ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS, AND POSTDOCS!

WHATS GOING ON?

Members of the unions representing academic workers on all 10 UC campuses are on strike in response to the refusal of the university to accede to basic demands during contract negotiations for higher wages, better housing, and stronger workplace protections.

UC ADMIN'S HOLLOW EXCUSES

"WE DON'T HAVE THE MONEY"

REALITY: Administrators will always claim that the money just isn't there and we should go back to eating our instant noodles. When UC grad students went on strike in 2020 demanding a cost of living adjustment, Chancellor Christ sent out a campuswide email claiming that, "Such a significant expenditure simply is not feasible within the campus' current budget." But the combined wage increases demanded by striking academic workers would amount to less than 3% of the total UC system budget. What gives?

Salaries and wages are the largest expense category across all UC campuses. Top-level campus execs take home six-figure salaries, but the problem doesn't even stop there. The UC employs as many "managers and senior professionals" as they do GSIs, GSRs, and postdocs combined (as measured by full-time equivalent employees)! Bureaucratic bloat is a huge financial drain, and as anyone who's ever tried to navigate the university bureaucracy knows, it doesn't make anyone's life more pleasant.

"WE JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE OUR UNDERGRAD STUDENTS GET THE WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION THEY DESERVE"

REALITY: There are a lot of ulterior motives university leaders have to keep our noses on the grindstone: to keep us competing against each other for limited opportunities, to reinforce careerist impulses, to make us feel like "we're just lucky to be here in the first place," to keep us distracted from larger issues in society at large.

We need to combat individualist ways of thinking and be ready to make sacrifices for the good of collective interests. There's a difference between getting an education and getting grades stamped on a transcript. The people trying to keep this ivory tower propped up want us to believe they're one and the same, but education is not confined to the classroom of an elite institution.

"BERKELEY STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE"

REALITY: The scale and scope of research and discovery that happens in the UC system is quite astounding. On the other hand, these advances are applied in many nefarious ways, from algorithms that get people hooked on social media, to weapons used in US imperialist wars abroad.

A diligent analysis of where all these problems come from will always end up back at the capitalist system, which the university itself is part of. Cal isn't a "neutral" institution separate from social reality. It plays an active role in reproducing the ideology of the elites and also in developing new technologies that will be used to generate profits for a few people at the top of the social hierarchy.

Join the picket! Learn through practice!



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