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California State Senate

SENATOR
MONIQUE LIMÓN

NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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CHAIR

November 13, 2021

Michael Drake
President, University of California Office of the President
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor Oakland, CA 94607

Dear President Drake:

I write to request a resolution on two pending labor issues. As a former UC employee, I understand the complexity of these issues. I cannot stress enough the importance of fairly compensating faculty and staff for their work as they educate Californians and continue to make the UC system a premier institution, not only statewide but across the country.

Student Researchers United—UAW:

Student Researchers are essential drivers of the research mission of the UCs, performing experiments, writing research grant proposals, and generating innovative ideas that push the boundaries of the fields in which they work.

It is my understanding that the conflict revolves around whether Fellows and Trainees should be included in the bargaining unit based on the source of their compensation, whether or not they are considered employees, and who supervises them if they are funded through extramural grants. I believe this is an opportunity for the UC to be innovative and continue to support students in these types of positions.

Fellows and Trainees perform the same work as Graduate Student Researchers, in the same labs, and make equal contributions to the mission of the UC. Moreover, their work and effort are a benefit to their academic career and the whole UC system. Therefore, I respectfully urge you to recognize their contributions as negotiations continue.

Lecturers, University Council-American Federation of Teachers (UC-AFT):

I have personally engaged and worked with Lecturers in my previous role at the UC, and have seen their impact on students firsthand. Lecturers are critical to the success of many students, and provide vital mentorship.

I respectfully request a fair agreement with UC-AFT that includes consistent review and rehiring processes, enforceable workload standards, and fair compensation that reflects their training, experience, and contributions to the UC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Monique Limón". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M".

MONIQUE LIMÓN
Senator, 19th District