



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

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November 23, 2021

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5160
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

Thank you for the letter dated November 18 from you and your colleagues, stating your support for the formation of an employee organization for UC's Graduate Student Researchers (GSRs). I appreciate that you are attentive to this matter and we take our responsibility to our employees and students very seriously.

The University does not dispute that its GSRs are student employees and should be included in the bargaining unit. In other words, the University accepts that students currently categorized as GSRs are all appropriately placed in the unit.

Those with whom we are negotiating on membership in the unit would also like to see others, who are not currently GSRs, in the unit as well. This includes trainees, fellows, and other students whom we do not categorize or pay as employees. These students receive funding, including financial aid awards, to pursue a course of study. Receipt of these funds is not dependent on the performance of duties at the direction or control of the University or any other service rendered to the University. This category includes students whose support is intended to fund learning experiences that contribute to the students' progress toward their graduate or professional program of study or for which the students receive academic credit.

We are currently in settlement discussions in partnership with PERB and, while those discussions are confidential, UC stands ready to work toward resolution. UC is eager to negotiate when the makeup of the unit is finalized.

If you have additional questions about the University's position on this or anything else, please contact Associate Vice President and Director of State Governmental Relations, Kieran Flaherty, at Kieran.flaherty@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

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cc: Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
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