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COMMITTEES
CHAIR: HIGHER EDUCATION
ACCOUNTABILITY AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
BUDGET
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE

WEBSITE
www.assembly.ca.gov/medina

November 30, 2021

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

RE: Recognition of Student Researchers United-UAW

Dear President Drake:

As the Assembly Chair of Higher Education, former graduate student, and alum of the University of California, Riverside, I write to urge you to recognize Student Researchers United--UAW as the union chosen by the majority of 17,000 UC Student Researchers.

On behalf of the State Legislature, I am proud that the University of California is our nation's premier research institute, securing more research funding and producing more patents than any other university in the nation. These incredible achievements play a critical role in California's leadership on science and innovation – achievements that would not be possible without the hard work and contributions of 17,000 Student Researchers.

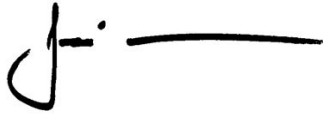
Despite their enormous contributions to the University of California, Student Researchers face persistent inequalities in the workplace. This is why a majority of these workers (more than 12,000) submitted authorization cards to the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) in May choosing to form a union: Student Researchers United-UAW. PERB verified this majority and the right of the union to be recognized in early August.

In 2017, I supported the passage of SB 201, which recognized the collective bargaining rights of all Student Researchers at the University of California. This bill corrected a decades-long injustice that UC Student Researchers did not have the right under the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act to form a union because they were considered solely students and not employees.

My colleagues and I understand that the University has disputed the composition of the bargaining unit, arguing that workers in certain job titles are merely students and not workers with the same arguments UC made against SB 201, and is denying

recognition of the new union. I join the other members of the California State Legislature and United States Congress who urge you to swiftly drop this dispute, and recognize Student Researchers United-UAW as the union for Student Researchers in all the titles in which they work. We respectfully urge you to ensure that the rights and democratic decision of more than 12,000 UC employees are respected by your administration, and that the University immediately begins the task of negotiating a contract that improves the working conditions of all Student Researchers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line.

JOSE MEDINA
Assemblymember 61st District

CC: Michael Brown, Provost & Executive Vice President