

## Statement on UC/UCR Policing and the Strike

Three weeks into the academic worker strike over the UC administration's unfair labor practices, we have been impressed by the positive spirit of the strike happening on our campus. The strike reflects the principles and strategies of civil disobedience, while also including mobilization tactics intended to create momentary disruptions of "business-as-usual." In fact, such disruptions expose how "business-as-usual" is a condition of insecurity and systemic vulnerability (economic and otherwise) for striking academic workers. "Business-as-usual" is the unsustainable crisis this historic strike is courageously attempting to address. In this context, we are alarmed and appalled to learn that UC administrators have instructed faculty and staff to call on UC campus police to confront striking students, researchers, and instructors.

The UC campus police, as an institution, was created as a tool for shutting down protests and repressing student organizing efforts on college campuses, always through intimidation and often through physical violence. Over the last decade, police violence against students at [UC Santa Cruz](#), [UC Davis](#), [UC Berkeley](#), [UC Irvine](#) and [UC Riverside](#) has directly impacted the university's teaching and research mission. The UC police have no part to play in fair and honest contract negotiations during a legal strike.

We reject the call by UC administrators to call campus police on striking academic workers. Disruptions created by the strike are based on clear grievances and demands; these are best resolved through good faith bargaining as well as debates, dialogues, and negotiations that do not include police action. We specifically ask that Kathryn Uhrich, Dean of the College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) at UCR, retract recently emailed instructions to select CNAS faculty to call police on striking academic workers. More generally, we demand that UCOP administrators cease and desist from instructing campus administrators to call police on striking academic workers, and instead devote their energy to resolving the problems raised by this historic strike.

Policing imperils the safety and well-being of the entire campus community. We encourage the UC administration to reopen systemwide discussions of proven strategies for improving community safety through less rather than more reliance on police presence, including abolitionist alternatives.

We call upon everyone in the UCR community, including faculty, staff, students, and administrators to reject these dangerous intimidation tactics, and ask them to appeal to their colleagues, professors, and administrators to refrain from involving the campus police in the strike.

This statement is supported by:

Cops Off Campus (UC Riverside chapter)

Department of English

Department of Black Study

Department of Dance

ADDITIONAL ENDORSEMENTS FORTHCOMING, please email unit/organizational endorsements to [Ucrftp@googlegroups.com](mailto:Ucrftp@googlegroups.com) (we are not asking for individual signatories at this time)