



# URGENT ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL

Government Code Section 54954.2(b)  
Rules of Procedure Chapter III.C.5

**THIS ITEM IS NOT YET AGENDIZED AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR THE AGENDA AS A LATE ITEM, SUBJECT TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S DISCRETION ACCORDING TO BROWN ACT RULES**

**Meeting Date: November 15, 2022**

**Item Description: Resolution and Letter in Support of UC Academic Workers' Ongoing Contract Negotiations and Strike Actions**

This item is submitted pursuant to the provision checked below:

- Emergency Situation (54954.2(b)(1) - majority vote required)  
*Determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.*
- Immediate Action Required (54954.2(b)(2) - two-thirds vote required)  
*There is a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted.*

Once the item is added to the agenda (Consent or Action) it must be passed by the standard required vote threshold (majority, two-thirds, or 7/9).

**Facts supporting the addition of the item to the agenda under Section 54954.2(b) and Chapter III.C.5 of the Rules of Procedure:**

The need for action came to the attention of the Council subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted. There is a need to take immediate action, as the authorized strike began on November 14<sup>th</sup> and contract negotiations are underway.



CITY COUNCILMEMBER  
**RIGEL ROBINSON**  
DISTRICT 7

CONSENT CALENDAR  
November 15, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Rigel Robinson (author), Councilmember Terry Taplin, Councilmember Kate Harrison, & Mayor Jesse Arreguin (co-sponsors)

Subject: Resolution and Letter in Support of UC Academic Workers' Ongoing Contract Negotiations and Strike Actions

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution in support of UAW 2865, UAW 5810, and SRU-UAW's ongoing contract negotiations and strike actions at UC Berkeley and across all UC campuses, and send a letter of support to UC President Michael Drake and Provost Michael Brown.

BACKGROUND

United Auto Workers (UAW) represents over 48,000 workers at the University of California, including academic researchers (UAW 5810), postdocs (UAW 5810), academic student employees (UAW 2865), and student researchers (SRU-UAW). All four bargaining units have been in contract negotiations with the UC Office of the President since the spring of 2021, and have authorized a strike that began on November 14, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

UAW has passed proposals across the table that address cost of living, support for international students and student-parents, transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, disability justice, job security, and more. The most common salary that graduate workers earn is \$23,247. A UAW membership survey found that 92 percent of graduate workers and 61 percent of postdoctoral scholars are rent-burdened, with 40 percent of graduate workers spending more than half of their income on rent. Given that these workers balance their campus jobs with their student responsibilities, they often do not have the ability to take on another job.

Many of these academic workers are affiliated with UC Berkeley and reside in the City of Berkeley. Without UC's commitment to support a diverse workforce with compensation that matches the cost of living, the quality of research and education declines and students are pushed out of academia — and out of Berkeley. The UC administration must come to the table to bargain in good faith and settle a fair contract with its workers.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fairucnow.org/>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Rigel Robinson, (510) 981-7170  
Angie Chen, Legislative Assistant

Attachments:

- 1: Letter of support
- 2: Resolution



November 15, 2022

President Michael Drake, M.D.  
University of California, Office of the President  
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

**RE: City of Berkeley's Support for UAW 2865, UAW 5810, and SRU-UAW's  
Ongoing Contract Negotiations and Strike Actions**

Dear President Michael Drake,

The Berkeley City Council would like to convey our firm support for the bargaining priorities and collective bargaining rights of UC academic workers, including the right to strike.

UC Berkeley's academic researchers, postdocs, academic student employees, and student researchers are treasured members of our community. They work closely with faculty to provide a quality public education to students and conduct field-leading research that raises Berkeley's national profile. The City of Berkeley would not be what it is without their contributions.

As the cost of living has dramatically increased in California, financial support for UC workers has not. We are acutely aware of the impacts of the housing crisis on the ability of academic workers to meet their basic needs and remain in academia. In order to support these workers and all UC Berkeley students, the administration must come to the bargaining table in good faith.

We call on the UC Office of the President to settle a fair contract that meaningfully responds to UAW's proposals on cost of living, support for international students and student-parents, climate, disability justice, and job security.

Respectfully,

The Berkeley City Council

CC: Michael Brown, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUPPORT OF UC ACADEMIC WORKERS' ONGOING  
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND STRIKE ACTIONS

WHEREAS, United Auto Workers (UAW), the union representing over 48,000 academic student employees, student researchers, postdocs, and academic researchers across the University of California, has been in contract negotiations with the UC Office of the President since the spring of 2021; and

WHEREAS, a UAW membership survey found that 92 percent of graduate workers and 61 percent of postdoctoral scholars are rent-burdened, with 40 percent of graduate workers spending more than half of their income on rent; and

WHEREAS, UAW has passed proposals across the table that address skyrocketing rents and cost of living, support for international students and student-parents, transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, disability justice, job security, and more; and

WHEREAS, after many months of bargaining and filing 28 Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) charges against the UC, UAW members overwhelmingly authorized a multi-unit strike beginning November 14, 2022 at 8am.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council affirms its support for the ongoing contract negotiations and strike actions of UAW 2865, UAW 5810, and SRU-UAW's 48,000 workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council encourages the Berkeley community to respect the UAW picket line for the duration of the strike.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council calls on UC President Michael Drake, Provost Michael Brown, and the UC administration to bargain in good faith and settle a fair contract with the academic workers who keep the University of California system running.