Resolution Call for COLA

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

Whereas: the University of California, as a leading public university in the world, has secured its reputation for delivering high-quality undergraduate education in no small part through the underpaid labor of graduate students and lecturers;

Whereas: the University of California’s increasing reliance on casualized teaching is unsustainable given escalating housing and living costs throughout the state;

Whereas: the UC Santa Cruz Chancellor’s proposed support packages and need-based, annual housing supplement do not offer a substantive and lasting solution to the issue of graduate student precarity;

Whereas: the university administration has chosen to deploy police from other UC campuses and municipalities who have arrested student protestors who were peacefully assembling;

Whereas: the university has employed practices of surveillance by implementing reporting mechanisms that encourage undergraduates to inform on their instructors and has responded to striking graduate students and student protestors with disciplinary summonses, suspensions, and threats of dismissal;

Whereas: these threats violate departmental jurisdiction in the assignment of teaching duties and contravene the principles of shared governance;

Whereas: the United Auto Workers Union (UAW) has repeatedly indicated its readiness under the collective bargaining agreement to meet with the UC Santa Cruz administration and UCOP; and striking graduate students have expressed their willingness to pause the work stoppage, provided that progress is made in substantive discussions with the UC Santa Cruz administration;

Whereas: graduate student precarity is not unique to UC Santa Cruz but is a structural issue that afflicts the entire UC system and therefore requires an ethical system-wide solution;

Be it resolved that the UC Santa Cruz Academic Senate:

1. Supports the graduate students’ and lecturers’ and staff need for higher wages commensurate with local cost-of-living increases,
2. Calls for the withdrawal of sanctions against striking and arrested students,
3. Affirms departmental autonomy in the assignment of TAships,
4. And urges the UC Santa Cruz administration and UCOP--in dialogue with striking graduate students and lecturers whose contract ended on January 31, 2020--to work swiftly to find fair and lasting solutions that honor each of these units’ indispensable contributions to teaching and research at the
University of California.

Respectfully submitted;
Leiva, Latin American & Latino Studies