

**Report of Divisional Action of Academic Senate,  
February 19th, 2020 and February 21<sup>st</sup> ,2020**

TO: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division  
FROM: Matt McCarthy, Secretary  
DATE: March 12, 2020  
RE: Report of Divisional Actions of Academic Senate, February 19, 2020 and February 21, 2020

The Academic Senate Santa Cruz Division passed the following resolutions at its regular, meeting on February 19, 2020. In response to verified petitions requesting referendum, exceeding the number required, on both resolutions, the following referendums were distributed on February 21st, 2020 via online ballot. Both referendums passed.

**February 19, 2020 Resolution Results:**

**The following resolution was PASSED by secret ballot;**

**105 In Favor, 18 Opposed, 7 Invalid**

**Senate Resolution regarding Reporting Form (AS/SCP/1965)**

**February 21, 2020 Referendum Results:**

**The following referendum was PASSED by online ballot**

**300 in favor, 123 opposed, 2 blank**

**Senate Referendum #1 regarding Reporting Form (AS/SCP/1965)**

**Whereas** the foundation of any research university is the creation and free exchange of knowledge, principles reflected in the tenure system and, in the University of California, through guarantees of academic freedom (APM 010); and

**Whereas** both APM 010 and the AAUP 1940 statement on academic freedom affirm that faculty have a basic right to teach our subjects as we see fit; and

**Whereas** such rights safeguard the ability to change the material and/or the sequence of activities in our courses in order to respond to emergent circumstances; and

**Whereas** in a social/cultural/political moment when discourse is highly fractured and fractious, it is increasingly challenging to create learning environments in which everyone can speak freely to discuss a wealth of subjects and to address a range of different perspectives; and

**Whereas** the February 7, 2020, Public Affairs communication titled “Unsanctioned strike by some graduate students” contains a “Notification of Class and Section Disruption” Google form accessible through the notify the campus hotlink; and

**Whereas** the Senate was not consulted in the creation of this reporting mechanism or notified regarding the subsequent duplication of the reporting mechanism in Canvas; and

**Whereas** a mechanism for reporting “class and section disruption” only exacerbates fractious and fractured rhetoric, creates campus and classroom climates that inhibit academic freedom, and ultimately undermines the core mission and values of the University of California and UCSC; and

**Whereas** the free exchange of knowledge—the very cornerstone of the university—is compromised when everyone in our community is encouraged to surveil and report on conversations occurring in the course of instruction; and

**Whereas** students already can and do voice their experiences and concerns through processes such as grievance procedures and student evaluations, processes that have been designed via channels of shared governance to consider such student input, both positive and negative, in a careful and deliberate way that helps safeguard academic freedom; therefore be it

**Resolved** that the Senate advises the Chancellor and the Interim Executive Vice Chancellor to disable the links to the reporting form in university announcements and on Canvas, refuse to allow the use of any data collected through these mechanisms as grounds for disciplinary measures against any faculty or students, and destroy all copies of any data collected via the Google form or through Canvas; and be it further

**Resolved** that any future proposal to monitor the content or delivery of classes must go through the proper Senate channels.

**February 19, 2020 Resolution Results:**

**The following resolution was moved from the floor and was PASSED by a secret ballot;  
97 In Favor, 27 Opposed, 1 Invalid**

**February 21, 2020 Referendum Results:**

**The following referendum was PASSED by online ballot  
228 in favor, 194, opposed, 3 blank  
Senate Referendum #2 from floor**

**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.