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***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

POSTDOCS CALL ON UC ADMINISTRATORS TO ABIDE BY OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OVERTIME RULES, DELIVER A FAIR CONTRACT

UC Postdocs To Take Action Thursday Afternoon and Make Over 400 Phone Calls to UC Administrators

Berkeley, CA – Postdoctoral scholars at the University of California will place more than 400 calls on Thursday at 3 p.m. to UC administrators across all 10 UC campuses urging them to negotiate a fair contract. The calls will be placed to school Chancellors, Executive Vice Chancellors, and Graduate Deans from multiple departments to inform them about a new Obama administration rule extending overtime pay to all employees making less than \$50,440. UC is applying for an exemption to this rule so they can avoid paying postdocs overtime even though they fall within its threshold.

Postdoctoral researchers on average work almost fifteen hours of overtime every week without any increase in their pay. The 400 phone calls in an hour symbolizes how much postdoc labor the University of California benefits from: UAW 5810 represents over 6,000 postdocs at the UC and it would take over 400 calls per hour for every postdoc to call in during their typical 15 hours of overtime.

UC postdocs are currently negotiating their next employment contract with UC management, but UC management's supposed uncertainty over whether the Obama administration will exempt them from the overtime rule is preventing UC from offering postdocs any childcare support. The lack of childcare support has contributed to many women being forced out of their positions as postdocs, and has helped create a dramatic gender gap within the academy. Although women receive more than half of the PhDs in this country, they represent only 21% of full professors in the sciences and only 5% of full professors in engineering.

"Postdoc wages are too low to afford childcare despite working more than 40 hours a week. The new overtime rules from President Obama and the Labor Department are meant to help people like us who work extremely hard and aren't paid fairly," said Anke Schennink, president of UAW 5810. "However, the UC is trying to use these new overtime rules as a threat to our wages and benefits, the exact opposite of their intention and of what the President is trying to achieve."

Postdocs will discuss these issues Thursday afternoon with UC chancellors and administrators along with the value and work that postdocs do to advance research and graduate education across the university system and urge the administrators to negotiate a fair contract with UAW 5810.

Postdocs work long hours in labs across UC performing highly technical work. They are the backbone of UC's research mission, and have helped secure hundreds of patents and millions of dollars in grants for the University. Many of them are recent immigrants to this country, the best and the brightest in their fields in their home countries. All have already earned a PhD. The starting salary for a postdoc is \$42,800 – below the \$50,440 guideline that President Obama is proposing to qualify for overtime pay.

“We will call on UC administrators to abandon their opposition to these new overtime rules and to fairly compensate postdocs for their hard work on behalf of the University system,” said Kristen Yankura, a postdoc in Sensory Neurobiology at UCLA who will participate in Thursday’s action.

Data from the Census Bureau released last week shows that most Americans make substantially less money in inflation-adjusted terms than they did 15 years ago. Stagnant wages have dogged workers for decades – a problem the Obama administration has been looking to solve.

UC’s intransigence on this issue is just the latest in a series of labor-unfriendly moves that have sent three UC unions to strikes in just the past three years. Postdocs have empowered their bargaining team to call for a strike vote if deemed necessary such as over the University’s unfair labor practices.

You can learn more about UAW 5810 online at www.UAW5810.org, or join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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