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*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

UC POSTDOC UNION TO HOLD STRIKE AUTHORIZATION VOTE OCTOBER 1

This Historic Action by Post Docs Would Affect Every UC Campus

Berkeley, CA – Postdoctoral scholars at the University of California will hold a strike authorization vote beginning Thursday, October 1 across all 10 UC campuses. UAW Local 5810 represents more than 6,000 postdocs at the University of California, and together they make up the backbone of UC's research mission.

Over the course of long negotiations, the University has proposed only take-aways to postdoc compensation, refused childcare support to postdoc parents, and has so far denied international academics brought here to enhance UC's research mission the same due process rights as their American counterparts.

In addition, UC has filed its official comment with the Department of Labor seeking to exempt postdocs from [a new rule proposed by the Obama administration](#) that would require overtime pay for workers asked to put in more than 40 hours a week but who make less than \$50,440.

"We believe that UC should fight income inequality, not perpetuate it," said Anke Schennink, president of the postdoc union. "But management has told us they think we should be paid less, that our families don't deserve the same support as other UC personnel, and that we should be required to work hours we're not paid for. We believe that our work is valuable, and we are going to stand up for ourselves. We cannot countenance UC's failure to bargain in good faith at the table. Our members will begin voting to authorize a strike this week to give our team the authority to call a strike if UC continues with its unlawful conduct."

A strike would affect every campus in the UC system, effectively shutting down the research engine that has earned UC a sterling international reputation and that adds millions to its coffers each year. Postdocs, who have already earned their PhDs, perform cutting edge research at labs across UC. They work long hours to help the University secure patents and break new ground in subjects like cancer research, clean energy, physics modeling, and more.

Earlier this year, a majority of the 6,000 postdocs signed a public statement calling for a fair contract and hand-delivered those signatures to Chancellor's offices across the UC system. The statement authorized UAW 5810's bargaining team to do what was necessary to secure a fair contract, and an authorization vote for a strike will be held this week to give the team the ability to call a strike if circumstances warrant.


Because of the uncertainty over whether the Obama administration will exempt these workers from its proposed overtime rule, UC is refusing to offer 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.

UC's labor-unfriendly positions and actions have forced three other UC unions to strikes in just the past three years.

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

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