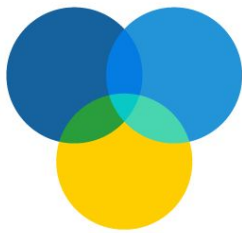


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academic
researchers
united



SIXTEEN CALIFORNIA LEGISLATORS ASK UC PRESIDENT JANET NAPOLITANO TO STOP STALLING AND RECOGNIZE UNION OF ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS

Berkeley, CA – State legislators representing University of California campuses across the state sent a letter on Friday to UC President Janet Napolitano, asking her to direct university administrators to stop stalling and recognize nearly 5,000 Academic Researchers, who formed a union five months ago. The letter was co-signed by 11 committee chairs including Senator Connie Leyva, chair of the Senate Education Committee, and Assemblymember Jose Medina, chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

“In your capacity as President, we urge you to recognize the Academic Researchers’ union (Academic Researchers United / UAW Local 5810), permitting the collective bargaining process to proceed so that terms of a contract can be reached in a timely fashion,” the letter reads.

Last September, a clear majority of Academic Researchers (approximately 3,500) submitted cards authorizing the formation of a union, and California’s Public Employment Relations Board verified this majority on November 15, 2018. To date, UC administrators have not recognized the union, nor have agreed to bargain a contract. In addition to in-house legal counsel, UC has engaged an outside law firm to advise them as they stall – wasting public funds on denying their own employees their democratic rights and their right to union representation.

“In refusing to recognize this union, UC is repeating a troubling pattern of ‘deny and delay’ – a strategy they have used before,” said Anke Schennink, President of UAW Local 5810, which will be the local to represent these workers. “In 2010, extreme delays in the bargaining of a first contract for the Union of Postdoctoral Scholars at UC necessitated congressional intervention. Indeed it took a field hearing held by former Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller, raising questions on how public research funds were being used, to get things moving. Academic Researchers have been waiting five months for UC administrators to acknowledge them. It’s past time for UC to stop their stalling and come to the bargaining table.”

Academic Researchers are part of a movement across the country of Academic Employees who are unionizing to address urgent issues like the very high rate of sexual harassment in academia. Union contracts can provide a path to ensuring that employees can work in a harassment-free environment. Many workers, including a UAW member at the [University of Connecticut](#), have accessed contractual protections to resolve their cases and continue their careers. But without a union contract, ARs do not have the ability to file a grievance on this issue or any other.

“Stalling may seem like a good tactic to administrators - but it has very real and very negative consequences for researchers,” said Maïke Roth, an AR at UCSF. “Every day without a union contract is a day without the protections and benefits we have worked hard for.”

You can read the full text of the letter [here](#).

The full list of signatories is: Connie Leyva, Maria Elena Durazo, Richard Pan, Nancy Skinner, Anna Caballero, Benjamin Allen, Scott Wiener, Mike McGuire, Jose Medina, Ash Kalra, Freddie Rodriguez, Lorena Gonzalez, Todd Gloria, David Chiu, Mark Stone, and Cecilia Aguiar-Curry.