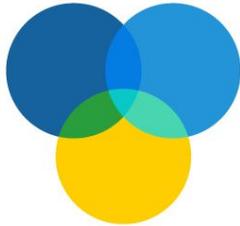


March 25, 2019

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***For Immediate Release***

## **UC AGREES TO DROP OPPOSITION TO UNION OF ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS AFTER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND STATE LEGISLATORS INTERVENE**

Berkeley, CA – After stalling for nearly six months, the University of California on Friday agreed to drop their objections to the recognition of Academic Researchers United / UAW 5810, the union of Academic Researchers (ARs) at UC. The decision comes just two days after twenty members of Congress urged University President Janet Napolitano to respect the democratic rights of UC's employees, and two weeks after sixteen state legislators sent a letter making a similar request. Nearly 5,000 Academic Researchers across the state chose to form a union last September.

“Today, the University did the right thing,” said Anke Schennink, the President of UAW 5810. “This decision is the result of countless hours of work from thousands of ARs who organized, spoke up, and were active in reaching out to their elected leaders. ARs look forward to working with UC to bargain a fair contract that improves working conditions for the researchers who work hard every day to make UC one of the most respected research institutions in the world.”

Academic Researchers play a crucial role in advancing the University of California's research mission, driving innovation and discoveries in areas such as biotechnology, computer science, agriculture, and green energy. ARs are responsible for conducting experiments, writing grants, mentoring students and colleagues, and much more. AR's work produces job creation, advances in business and technology, and improves quality of life.

Currently, however, ARs have no real say in how their careers are administered by the University, and must endure positions with no job security, low pay, and inconsistent promotion policies. And like many other academic positions, gender inequity and a lack of protection for

international employees are huge problems, which ARs hope to address through collective bargaining. “We look forward to meeting UC at the bargaining table as soon as possible,” said Maïke Roth, an Academic Researcher at UC San Francisco. “There is major room for improvement in how UC administers AR positions.”

Under the recognition agreement, all four AR job title series - Project Scientist, Specialist, Professional Researcher, and Coordinator of Public Programs, will be included in the union. Additionally, individuals who were erroneously placed into visiting job titles will be transferred into non-visiting Academic Researcher job titles. These individuals were performing work for UC and were on UC payroll, but because they were placed in the wrong job title often did not receive benefits. You can read the full agreement on the Academic Researchers United / UAW 5810 website [here](#).