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## UAW Files Charges of Unfair Labor Practices (ULPs) by UC in First Contract Bargaining for 6,500 Postdoctoral Scholars at UC

Press contact: Matthew "Oki" O'Connor (510) 932-8418

June 9, 2010

The Union representing 6,500 Postdoctoral Scholars at UC charges that the University has engaged in a broad pattern of bad-faith bargaining that creates obstacles to reaching agreement on a first contract. The Union and University have held 57 days of bargaining sessions over 17 months.

"Postdocs are growing impatient with UC hiding behind the CA budget crisis and other pretexts to stall agreement on our first contract. Everyone knows we are paid from growing research contract and grant revenue, not state general funds," said Norval Hickman, a Postdoc at UC San Francisco who researches tobacco addiction and is a member of the PRO/UAW Bargaining Committee. "UC's behavior is unacceptable."

"We have been watching these negotiations for more than 17 months now and are disappointed to see UC dragging out negotiations for as long as possible, especially since some part of our rapidly increasing tuition and fees goes to pay the administrators in charge of these negotiations," said Victor Sanchez, president of the UC Student Association that represents 200,000 students across the UC system. "As a public institution, UC ought to be an exemplar of good faith bargaining and productive labor relations, not resorting to such dirty tricks and wasteful tactics."

"Since the Unfair Labor Practices and strikes that led to the first contract for the TA Union ten years ago, we have had a more constructive and positive relationship with UC," said Christine Petit, President of UAW Local 2865, which represents Teaching Assistants, Readers and Tutors at UC. "It's unfortunate to see them regressing to such unproductive tactics. The 12,000 academic student employees at UC will not stand by while UC does this to the Postdoc Union."

The ULP charges come on the heels of unprecedented and growing pressure from Congressional leaders encouraging UC to reach agreement, including an April 30 House Committee on Education and Labor field hearing looking into UC's failure to reach agreement after 15 months of negotiations. After the hearing, Chairman George Miller wrote UC President Yudof expressing "deep concern" about UC's slow-paced approach to the negotiations, saying he "left the hearing thoroughly disappointed" in UC's efforts to reach agreement. ([www.prouaw.org/bargaining/files/Yudof\\_ltr\\_Miller\\_20100511](http://www.prouaw.org/bargaining/files/Yudof_ltr_Miller_20100511))

Copies of the charges are available at: [www.prouaw.org](http://www.prouaw.org)

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