

UC Student-Workers Union, UAW Local 2865  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **UC Student-Workers Enter Contract Negotiations with UC Administration**

*Union Members call for a groundbreaking employment contract that would raise wages; provide housing security; expand protections against workplace harassment, discrimination, and violence; and more.*

Berkeley, CA -- Wednesday, February 28, student-workers from across the University of California system will begin collectively negotiating a new employment contract with representatives from the UC Administration. The members of the UC Student-Workers Union, UAW Local 2865, are demanding a “UC for all” in a bold campaign that calls for higher wages and full fee remission for student-workers, a plan for affordable housing, sanctuary campuses, an end to police brutality on UC campuses, and more.\*

The first day of negotiations between the UC Student-Workers Union and the UC Office of the President (UCOP) will take place from 9:30am-4:00pm at the Union’s statewide office in Berkeley, at 2030 Addison Street, Suite 640A. Contract negotiations will continue every few weeks at different UC campuses until the Union and UCOP reach an agreement. The current contract representing UC student-workers, or Academic Student Employees (ASEs), expires on June 30, 2018.

Wednesday, February 28, representatives of the student-workers union -- a bargaining team comprised of elected union members from each of the nine UC teaching campuses -- will present a set of [initial bargaining goals](#), which were drafted by student-workers through extensive discussions, town halls, and surveys of the 17,000+ student-workers at the UC. The bargaining goals were democratically ratified through a vote in which 95 percent of respondents supported the goals.

Reflecting its member-driven and democratic model, the UC Student-Workers Union practices “open bargaining,” in which rank-and-file members attend contract negotiations, set the agenda at the bargaining table, and help draft and approve contract language.

The union’s bargaining goals reflect UC student-workers’ commitment to building a “UC for all”: a more inclusive and diverse UC that offers accessible, high-quality public education. The goals call for a raise in wages to make the UC competitive among peer institutions; access to affordable housing; concrete steps

to make the UC safer for immigrant, undocumented, and international students; survivor-centered protections against sexual harassment and gender-based violence; lower student-to-teacher ratios to improve the quality of education offered at the UC; socially-responsible investments by the university; a workplace free from heavily armed police; expanded support for student-families; and more.

The university's counter-proposal reflects the Administration's intention to continue business as usual.

Sophia P. Hirakis, graduate student in Chemistry and Biochemistry at UC San Diego, says it is important that student-workers have the right to collective bargaining as a union, "because our most vulnerable populations become stronger when they unite to create a system that is designed to protect their best interests and wellbeing."

Angela Castillo, a Ph.D. student at UC Berkeley in Anthropology, connects the student-workers' contract negotiations to the quality of public education offered at the UC: "This negotiation isn't only about us -- the students who are teaching or will teach in the future -- it is about how all the educational activities of the university are done. For instance, we are demanding a transformation of the instructor/student ratio that would enhance the academic quality of the UC system as a whole."

The first day of bargaining is expected to draw out many student-workers and their supporters among other UC unions, faculty, and the student body.

\* The full list of the student-workers union goals for bargaining is available at:

<http://www.uaw2865.org/wp-content/uploads/UAW-2865-Final-2018-Bargaining-Goals-for-Ratification.pdf>

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