

Dear Colleagues,

We have been informed that UAW Local 4811—which represents graduate student researchers, academic student employees, postdoctoral scholars, and academic researchers—is holding an online strike authorization vote between May 13 and May 15. The UAW alleges that several University of California campuses engaged in unfair labor practices related to ongoing campus protests.

If UAW members vote in favor of a strike, UAW's Executive Board will have the authority to call a strike. The information we have so far is that, if a strike is authorized, the UAW intends to call a "standing" or rolling strike. This means that campuses may not all be affected by work stoppages simultaneously. This also means the UAW may start with small, localized work stoppages and expand them in scope or location should the UC refuse to meet their demands.

The UC's position is that if such a strike is approved and carried out, it is an illegal strike because the UAW contract includes a no-strike clause. However, the UAW contends that its actions are legal and justified. Ultimately, any such strike's legality will be determined months or years from now by the Public Employment Relations Board and the California Courts of Appeal.

In the event we experience significant strike activity or work stoppages on our campus, we will issue guidance on maintaining the academic continuity essential to the education and research functions of UC Davis. We will continue to communicate with you as developments warrant.

Sincerely,

Jean-Pierre Delplanque
Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies

Philip H. Kass
Vice Provost, Academic Affairs