

(The following statement was approved by a unanimous vote of the UCR English Department at its department meeting on Oct. 5, 2009.)

We, the faculty of the UC Riverside English Department, join with our many colleagues throughout the UC system in supporting the principles behind the current campus protests, as expressed most recently in the Day of Action on September 24, 2009. Our support is predicated on the following:

- Our commitment to our students, many of whom will no longer be able to afford to continue their education in the face of continually and steeply rising tuition (“fees”);
- Our concern for UC’s most vulnerable employees, those earning the least and those without long-term contracts, who are having to endure cuts to their already low salaries and the prospect (in some cases, the actuality) of mass lay-offs;
- Our opposition to the ever-widening gap between the salaries of UC’s top administrators and the frozen or plummeting salaries of those university employees (faculty and staff) whose labor constitutes the very heart and backbone of the UC system;
- Our dismay at the continuing erosion of both the ideal and the reality of a system of public higher education offering access to all Californians;
- Our consternation that the Master Plan for Higher Education in California—a document that has served us so well for so long and that has helped produce a top-ranked university system, the model and envy of others throughout the country—is being dismantled bit by bit, to the detriment of both the reputation and the quality of the university;
- Our solidarity with the students, faculty, and staff of the California State University system and the California Community Colleges, who also face severe budget cuts, fee increases and enrollment limits, further undermining the Master Plan’s guarantee of access to higher education for all Californians;
- Our desire for complete transparency with regard to UC’s finances and budgetary allocations, which includes a full accounting of how much money is being earmarked for what purposes, and by whom;
- Our belief in a system of shared governance whereby faculty views and input, as (for example) expressed in positions taken by the Academic Senates on the several campuses, are respected and heeded, not summarily dismissed or overruled by the administration.

In light of the points listed above, we support the following measures:

- No further increases in student tuition (“fees”);
- No salary reductions at all for employees earning \$40,000 or less; and no further salary reductions for faculty or staff earning more than \$40,000;
- A halt to mass layoffs of faculty until the consequences of such layoffs—in terms of increased work loads, larger class sizes, fewer classes offered, the difficulty of students’ getting the courses they need to graduate, etc.—are fully examined and weighed in an open forum;
- A full and open accounting of UC’s budget and finances to the UC community at large;
- A reaffirmation—and an actual putting into practice—of the principle of shared governance.

In addition, we urge President Yudof to expand the membership of the Gould Commission so that it doesn’t simply reflect the views of the business sector and professional schools but is truly representative of the university as a whole.

Rise Axelrod

McSweeney Professor of Rhetoric and Teaching Excellence and Director of Composition

Stephen Gould Axelrod

Professor

Heidi Brayman Hackel

Associate Professor

John C. Briggs

Professor and Director of the University Writing Program

Adriana Craciun

Professor

Kimberly Devlin

Professor

Andrea Denny-Brown
Assistant Professor

Jennifer Doyle
Associate Professor

Erica Edwards
Assistant Professor

Carole Fabricant
Professor

John M. Ganim
Professor

Weihsin Gui
Assistant Professor

George Haggerty
Professor

Keith Harris
Associate Professor

Rob Latham
Associate Professor

Tiffany A. Lopez
Associate Professor

Vorris Nunley
Assistant Professor

Michelle Raheja
Assistant Professor

Stanley Stewart
Distinguished Professor

James Tobias
Associate Professor

Carole-Anne Tyler
Associate Professor

Deborah Willis
Associate Professor and Chair

Traise Yamamoto
Associate Professor and McSweeney-McCauley Chair in Teaching Excellence

Susan Zieger
Associate Professor