As faculty members of the UCLA History Department, we fully support our graduate students in their ongoing contract negotiations with the University of California. We call on the UC to move swiftly to negotiate fair contracts with the striking workers so that we can return to the work of this great university.

The sad fact is that our students struggle to survive in Los Angeles, often facing housing and food insecurity. Many reports of the Academic Senate dating back decades have called attention to the impact of low pay and housing insecurity on graduate and undergraduate education. Inadequate support for graduate education means that we lose many promising students to other universities. The university has failed to address these long-standing problems.

As we begin finals week, and the fourth week of the strike, our educational program is in crisis. It is simply not possible to carry out instruction and grading in many of our most popular classes without the work of graduate student instructors. As a department, we will not request that our lecturers and adjunct faculty take up struck work, and we will support their right to refuse additional uncompensated labor. Nor will we hire untrained replacement workers to grade final exams and papers. We fully support the right of Senate faculty to withhold their grades in solidarity with striking academic workers.

We urge UC administrators to bargain in good faith, with the goal of dignified wages and working conditions for all its workers. We urge California legislators to increase the funding of California’s higher education institutions. And we urge campus leadership to develop plans to mitigate the negative impact of the strike on undergraduate students.

In Solidarity,

Katsuya Hirano    Kate Norberg    Valerie Matsumoto
Anthony Vivian    Richard Von Glahn    H Glenn Penny
Robin Derby      Vinay Lal    Greg Woolf
Andrew Apter     Minayo Nasiali
Tawny Paul     Stefania Tutino
Choon Hwee Koh   Andrea S Goldman
Kelly Lytle Hernandez    Michael Meranze
Mary Corey    William Marotti
Jared McBride    Tobias Higbie
Jessica Goldberg    James L Gelvin
Katherine M Marino    Brenda Stevenson
Hollian Wint    David N Myers
Soraya de Chadarevian    Kevin Y Kim
Peter James Hudson    Fernando Perez Montesinos
Eddie R Cole    Kevin Terraciano
Peter Baldwin    Carla Pestana
Milos Jovanovic    Bharat Jayram Venkat