

August 12, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Michael V. Drake, MD
President
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear President Drake,

I'm writing to urge you to settle a fair contract with the UC-AFT librarians.

Like all workers, librarians are entitled to fair compensation and working conditions that support their ability to do the job. They deserve respectful and productive engagement with the employer when it comes to negotiating a contract—not a process that drags out over many months and is characterized by insulting proposals and needless intransigence on the other side of the bargaining table.

Those of us who work in public higher education have a special responsibility: to ensure higher education's contribution to the common good and carry out our mission to pursue knowledge and provide opportunities for students, workers, and communities. We cannot fulfill that mission well when we are starved for resources, inadequately staffed, and professionally undermined by the very administration that exists to serve it. In an era when outside activists are mounting severe and widespread attacks on higher education, it is disheartening to see university administrators doing their job for them.

One aspect of the attacks on higher education is the attempt to deprofessionalize and undermine the credibility of academics, including librarians. The UC administration plays into this by persistently denying the academic nature of library work. As is recognized by the *Joint Statement on the Faculty Status of College and University Librarians* prepared by representatives of the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Association of American Colleges (now the American Association of Colleges and Universities), and the American Association of University Professors,

Librarians perform a multifaceted role within the academy. It includes not only teaching credit courses but also providing access to information, whether by individual and group instruction, selecting and purchasing resources, digitizing collections, or organizing information. In all of these areas, librarians impart knowledge and skills to students and faculty members both formally and

August 12, 2024

Page 2 of 2

informally and advise and assist faculty members in their scholarly pursuits. They are involved in the research function and conduct research in their own professional interests and in the discharge of their duties. Their scholarly research contributes to the advancement of knowledge valuable to their discipline and institution.

In the UC system, as in other institutions, librarians play a key role in supporting research, education, and knowledge creation. They deserve a fair contract, and they deserve it now.

Sincerely,

Todd Wolfson

President, American Association of University Professors

Cc: James Steintrager, Chair, UC Academic Senate
Daniel Menezes, Associate Director/Chief Negotiator, Labor Relations, UCOP
Robert C. May, Past Chair, UC Academic Senate
Douglas M. Haynes, Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Programs, UCOP
Max Auffhammer, Chair, UC Berkeley Academic Senate
Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair, UC Davis Academic Senate
Arvind Rajaraman, Chair, UC Irvine Academic Senate
Andrea M. Kasko, Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
Matt Hibbing, Chair, UC Merced Academic Senate
Sang-Hee Lee, Chair, UC Riverside Academic Senate
John Hildebrand, Chair, UC San Diego Academic Senate
Steven Hetts, UC San Francisco Academic Senate
Susana Scott, UC Santa Barbara Academic Senate
Patty Gallagher, UC Santa Cruz Academic Senate
Katie Rodger, President, UC-AFT
Kendra Levine, Unit 17 Vice President, UC-AFT
Bill Quirk, Executive Director, UC-AFT