Statement from the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Precarious Labor Organization (PLO) on the UCSC graduate student strike

The Society for Cinema and Media Studies Precarious Labor Organization (PLO) stands in solidarity with graduate student workers at the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) and other UC campuses in their efforts to secure a cost of living adjustment (COLA).

Graduate student workers are workers. Their work is critical to the academic mission of the university. Graduate students, like all workers, deserve to be fairly compensated for their labor. Given the extraordinary costs of housing in Santa Cruz and at other UC campuses, graduate student workers are faced with an undue and unacceptable rent burden. The UCSC administration must address this situation, negotiate with striking workers, and grant a cost of living adjustment to allow graduate students the ability to do their jobs and complete their studies.

We condemn the refusal of the UCSC administration to negotiate with strikers, the use of police intimidation and force against strikers, threats of deportation made against international students participating in the strike, and the university's decision to fire 82 graduate student workers.

In solidarity we call on film and media scholars inside and outside the Society for Cinema and Media Studies to respect the picket line, not to hold or attend events on the UCSC campus and to sign the "NON-UCSC FACULTY PLEDGE OF SOLIDARITY AND NONCOOPERATION IN SUPPORT OF THE UCSC WILDCAT STRIKE SIGN-ON STATEMENT"

We encourage those film and media scholars who are able to do so to donate to the "Support Fund for Striking Workers at UCSC!"

In Solidarity

SCMS Precarious Labor Organization (PLO)