FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UCLA GSA President’s Statement of Condemnation Re: Brutality by UCPD at Santa Cruz

Feb. 12th, 2020 — I, Zak Fisher, President of the UCLA Graduate Students Association, do hereby condemn the thuggish and violent behavior exhibited by law enforcement agents in retaliation to peaceful collective action at University of California, Santa Cruz. The hostile and violent behavior law enforcement has thus far displayed is unacceptable in a civil society such as ours where rights of speech, association, expression, and collective action are enshrined throughout our foundational documents and shared historic values.

In recent days at Santa Cruz, law enforcement agents have physically beaten at least one individual and delivered at least one serious head injury. Another individual was arrested merely for bringing water to strikers who had been outside in the sun all day. Especially at a public school where all are meant to feel welcome, this is unacceptable. Police brutality has no place at our school or any school. If the police cannot demonstrate that they will not act in a brutal manner, then police have no place at our school or any school.

I therefore demand accountability from our school’s leaders, including UCSC Chancellor Larive and President Napolitano. The students, faculty, and staff of the University of California — as well as the public whose taxes largely fund our school — deserve to have faith in the law enforcement agencies they fund, including UCPD. Law enforcement’s brazen and audacious transgressions in recent days at Santa Cruz must be swiftly addressed and fully remedied by our school’s leadership.

Until adequate remedies are fully implemented in the eyes of the public and law enforcement under control of the University behaves in a civil manner, I, Zak Fisher, President of the UCLA Graduate Students Association do hereby express unequivocal condemnation of the University of California Police Department’s behavior at Santa Cruz. I likewise condemn all University of California administrators that enabled law enforcement’s behavior.

Sincerely,
Zak Fisher