

December 23, 2008

Mark J. Yudof
President
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear President Yudof:

I am writing you today to urge you to accept the terms reached by your requested mediator in an ongoing labor dispute with UC workers, represented by the American Federation of State, Federal, County, and Municipal Employees Local 3299 (AFSCME). The University is to be commended for action taken last month in settling the contract with 12,000 UC employees. I was further encouraged when the University requested Art Pulaski of the California Labor Federation to mediate between AFSCME and the University in an effort to resolve the continued labor dispute. This was a very good step and shows your interest in settling this situation.

It is my understand that after much deliberation, Mr. Pulaski recommended across the board salary increases of 5%, 3%, 3+1%, 3+1% for four years, year for year service credit steps, and a minimum rate of \$14.50/hour by the end of the four year contract term. It has been reported that this conclusion was reached after a neutral fact-finder concluded that significant wage increases were in order. It seems that the UC has a fair settlement reached by the mediator of its choosing and should take that option with great haste.

I know it is your desire to bring closure to this situation, especially in light of the fact that 96% of AFSCME's membership qualifies for dwindling public assistance programs. Like you, I find this situation untenable especially since most university systems offer more generous compensation for similar work. I am hopeful that you will embrace the good intentions inherent in UC's mediator selection and take his recommendations. With the holidays are upon us, what better way to bring them in than to offer the UC's lowest paid workers the dignity and appreciation all Californians deserve?

Warmest Regards,

ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee