



Department of Anthropology

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***Faculty statement in solidarity of
Graduate Student Cost of Living Adjustment Demands**

**University of California Irvine
Department of Anthropology**

Dear Regents of the University of California,

The Faculty of the Department of Anthropology want you to know that we support our graduate and undergraduate students. We are concerned that the high cost of living in Orange County and the surrounding area, including rent, childcare, and health insurance, poses an unsustainable burden on graduate students, and especially on international students and those with a precarious migrant status.

It is abundantly evident that graduate students require supplementary income. It would greatly benefit their wellbeing; foster their ability to produce important scholarship; and support their skilled labor of teaching in the classroom. They are demanding a living wage that would cost the University of California less than 1% of its budget. This investment would make an immeasurable difference in the quality of our teaching, education, and overall academic functioning.

We, the voting members of the Anthropology faculty, will not retaliate against graduate student workers for their choices regarding COLA-related actions, whether

they choose to participate or not. We will fight to ensure that future departmental decisions about fellowship support and TA and GSR allocations will not be affected by their decisions regarding participation. We also commit to not hiring non-participants to replace striking workers.

Again, a system-wide cost of living adjustment commensurable to the rising housing costs would greatly benefit the University as a whole.

Please feel free to reach out to us regarding your concerns. We look forward to staying in collaborative communication.

The Department of Anthropology Faculty