

DORIS O. MATSUI
5TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0505

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
222 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0505
(202) 225-7163

DISTRICT OFFICE:
ROBERT T. MATSUI U.S. COURTHOUSE
501 I STREET, SUITE 12-600
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 498-5600

<http://matsui.house.gov>

April 20, 2010

President Mark Yudof
University of California Office of the President
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: UAW-UC First-Contract Bargaining Postdoctoral Scholars

Dear President Yudof:

I am writing to urge the University of California to reach a final agreement for a first contract covering the 6,000 Postdoctoral Scholars who chose the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Workers (UAW) for representation in November 2008. I understand the University of California (UC) and the UAW will be meeting again soon, and I am confident that both parties can reach a fair agreement.

Postdoctoral Scholars are the backbone of the University's research enterprise, which is the envy of the world. Scientific advances made or assisted by Postdoctoral Scholars, in areas ranging from treatment and prevention of disease to climate change and alternative energy, will not only improve our quality of life through innovations but will help stimulate the economy by opening up new areas and means for economic growth. These employees perform much of the front-line scientific inquiry that not only brings important improvements to all our lives, but also attracts significant funding in the form of contracts and grants to the University.

I understand that UC and the UAW have met on numerous occasions since bargaining started last February and that only a few issues remain that have not been resolved. A fair contract should improve Postdoctoral Scholar compensation and benefits to reflect the continuing expansion of UC's research budget, as well as at least match the compensation standards of the NIH and what UC has recently provided for similarly-situated employees. This contract will create a solid foundation for an ongoing and positive working relationship between the University and its Postdoctoral Scholars.

A fair contract will enhance UC's ability to attract the best and brightest researchers who play such a critical role in advancing our nation's economic growth and improving our collective health and well-being. I hope a speedy resolution to this important issue can be reached.

Sincerely,



DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress

DOM:cf