

MIKE THOMPSON

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MANAGEMENT



**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

March 28, 2010

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

Dear President Yudof:

I am writing to urge the University of California to complete negotiations for a first contract covering the university's 6,000 Postdoctoral Scholars.

These employees, who chose UAW representation in November 2008, perform much of the front-line scientific inquiry that brings important improvements to all our lives, and attracts significant funding in the form of contracts and grants to the University. These contract and grant revenues to UC, the bulk of which come from the federal government including the NIH, have increased dramatically in recent years, due in large part to the professional caliber work of UC Postdoctoral Scholars, who represent ten percent of all Postdoctoral Scholars in the United States.

I understand that UC and the UAW have met on more than 50 occasions since bargaining started last February and that a few outstanding issues remain, including step increases and contractual rights. I understand that UC has expressed "philosophical opposition" to annual experience-based step increases, even though the NIH provides them to its Postdoctoral Scholars. I understand that proposed overall salary increases fall far short of what UC has recently agreed to provide numerous other similarly-situated employees. Further, the university is proposing that Postdoctoral Scholars have fewer basic contractual rights than the 12,000 UAW-represented Academic Student Employees (ASEs) when it comes to job security and the right to exercise one's conscience by choosing not to cross other employees' picket lines. Employees should not lose rights upon earning their PhD and transitioning from Student Employee to Postdoctoral Scholar.

With the June 30 fiscal year end approaching, I urge you to renew your efforts to reach a speedy conclusion to negotiations for a first contract. A fair first contract will strengthen 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. Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to hearing about a successful resolution of this important issue.

Sincerely,

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress