



Candidate Statement for L. Wynholds

Thank you for being involved with CUE and for voting in this election. There is no better way to ensure that you have a voice at the University's table than to be involved with your union.

I came to Davis almost ten years ago as a student, and have continued as an employee. My parents were both UC alums and UC employees. Throughout my experiences with the UCs, I have seen many dedicated people making this a place of education and advancement.

However, there are a number of difficult issues facing us today, both internal and external. The largest problem that we face is that the university is transitioning from a lecture hall to a corporate high rise. It is becoming a corporate entity that is more concerned with numbers and profit margins than the people it supposedly serves. This process reduces employees from active participants in a vibrant learning community to dull instruments, employed by managers to implement their 'strategic initiatives'. Unfortunately, undervalued and underpaid employees will not contribute to the lasting health and impact of this institution, regardless of how the numbers look on paper. And furthermore, the financial bottom line is meaningless if the UC system cannot deliver excellence in higher education for the state of California. Until we address this issue, our quality of life, our benefits, our morale and our real take-home pay will continue to decline.

In order to have the resources to address this huge problem, we need to tend to our own housekeeping. This union currently represents thousands of employees who are uninvolved and disinterested in CUE. The university counts on this lack of support during contract negotiations. It is critical that we build membership, build involvement, and build community in order to have both the strength and the wisdom to tackle the problems that lie before us. To this end it is critical that we operate with transparency and integrity. But the importance continues, even beyond contract negotiation: other unions have organized workers to deal with management, negotiate contracts and enforce safe work conditions, but they have also done things like organize childcare and transportation. We should learn from their successes.

Finally, we need to work to bring ALL of the UC workers together in solidarity. We are all facing the hard issue of how the university is changing. We need to work with our coworkers to build community across the university and across the entire system. This is hard work, reaching out across cultures and generations, fighting racism, prejudice, classism, sexism, and corporate greed, but it is good, honest work and it is the only way that this union will survive the next century.

Thank you,
Laura Wynholds