



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

June 5, 2008

Statement of Chancellor George Blumenthal Regarding UC/AFSCME Negotiations

It is my understanding that the University of California Office of the President and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, with the assistance of state mediators, are in negotiations over a new contract for the Patient Care Technical and Service bargaining units. I support the objective of reaching agreement on a fair and equitable contract for our employees who perform duties that are critical to the mission of the University.

I also support improving the wages of our lowest paid workers. Last year I authorized an increase to the campus minimum staff salary to \$25,000 a year and I funded equity increases for those making between \$25,000 and \$35,000. This year I have authorized special campus increases for food service workers and grounds workers. These increases have been offered to AFSCME at the system-wide bargaining table.

I have asked the Office of the President to make every effort to reach agreement with AFSCME as soon as possible. In the meantime, I am hopeful we will end this academic year with mutual respect and consideration for one another.