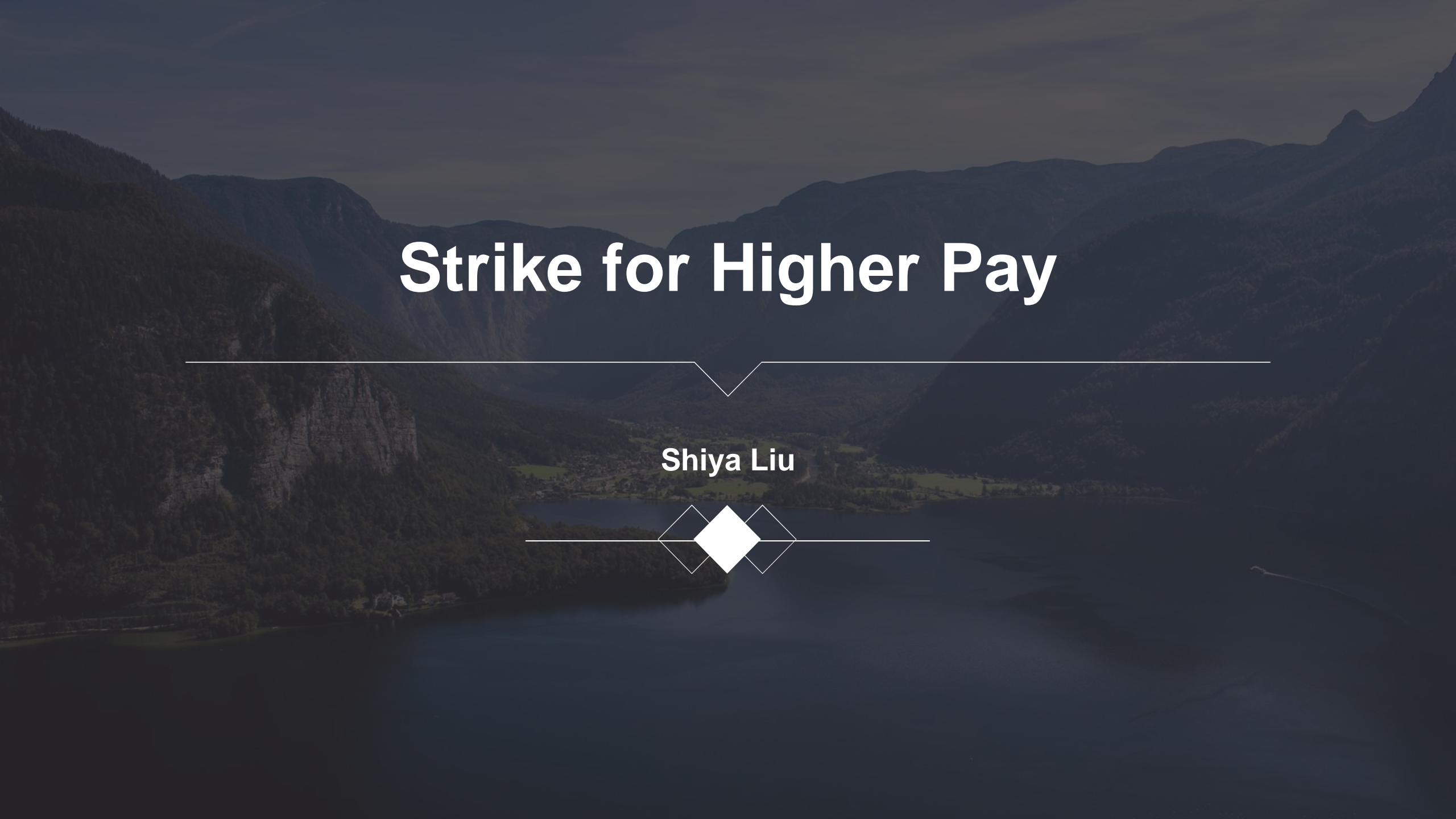



Strike for Higher Pay



Shiya Liu





ON STRIKE!!!!: #COLA 4 UCSC
@payusmoreucsc



We are fired and it's official. @UCSC terminated student workers engaged in #ucscstrike strike for a Cost of Living Adjustment (#COLA). Did we get a COLA? No! So why would we stop striking?
#cola4all

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DIVISION OF GRADUATE STUDIES

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

Delivered Via Email & Intercampus Mail



Re: Notice of Intent to Dismiss for Spring Teaching Fellow Appointment

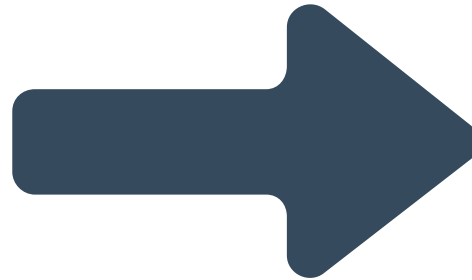
Dear 

In accordance with the agreement between the University of California and the United Auto Workers 2865, Academic Student Employees, Article 8 –Discipline and Dismissal (Attachment 1), this letter is a Notice of Intent to Dismiss you from your position of Teaching Fellow in Film and Digital Media during Spring quarter 2020. This action is based on abandonment of your job responsibilities by failing to submit student grades well past the fall quarter deadline of December 18, 2019 and insubordination by failing to follow a directive provided to you from the Interim Campus Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor on February 14, 2020.

DISMISSAL ACTION

Background

- University of California, Santa Cruz
- Not enough on-campus room
- Average rental \$2600 per month
- Contract with United Auto Workers
 - \$2400 per month (before tax, 9 months): take-home pay \$2200



Affordable Housing

Strike

- Call for \$1412 monthly cost-of-live increase
- Withholding the fall final grades for undergraduate students



Consequences

- 17 protesters were arrested
 - Block an intersection near the campus
- 54 graduate students were fired (now is 82, also lost their health care)
 - Fail to meet their contractual obligations by withholding fall grade information
 - Not authorized by the United Auto Workers— a wildcat strike



After that...

University:

- A housing project with 300 new beds
- A need-based annual housing supplement of \$2500 for doctoral students until housing available

Not enough!



Faculty and
departments



Dilemma

Student:

- More than 500 other graduate students have pledged not to fill the spots vacated by dismissed teaching assistants
- An energized crowd of a couple of hundred graduate students and their allies gathered on a picket line at the campus's main entrance

“ It is unclear how all this will end. Both sides seem ready to die on this hill.”

Discussion

If you were a student affair administrator:

Do you agree with measures adopted by the university? Why?

Group 1:

After striking

- Which actions you would take?
- What are the costs and benefits of your actions?
- What factors do you need to consider?
- Who would you include in your actions?

Group 2:

After fire TAs

- Which actions you would take?
- What are the costs and benefits of your actions?
- What factors do you need to consider?
- Who would you include in your actions?



Protect students' rights during pandemic?

Protest during pandemic?

Now

- UC Santa Cruz: The threat of the coronavirus has also forced the students to focus on their “digital picket” rather than their usual in-person actions.
- UC Santa Barbara and UC Berkeley: would begin their own teaching strikes for cost-of-living-adjustment stipends
- UC Davis and UC San Diego: have launched grading strikes
- University of Oregon and University of Maryland: have voiced support for the strikes in the UC system.

References

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