



Media Advisory

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UPTE-CWA and University of California Settle Contract for 10,000 Technical and Research Workers

UPTE-CWA members ratified a five-year agreement that guarantees raises, limits any increases for benefits and makes major improvements for health and safety at the University. UPTE-CWA members primarily work on federal grants or for UC enterprises and are not dependent on state funding.

Most UPTE-CWA research and technical members will receive raises totaling 14.5% over the next three years. In return for these raises these members will begin to make contributions to the pension fund at the same time that the University re-initiates contributions.

“Our members are amazed with the agreement we were able to achieve. More than 90% of them voted “yes” and we had a great voter turnout,” states Kevin Rooney, UPTE-CWA chief negotiator. “We achieved this victory because our members got involved and even went on a one-day strike last fall. We also got lots of support from legislators and our legal challenges to UC’s bad faith bargaining”, explains UPTE-CWA President Jelger Kalmijn

In response to last year’s workplace death of Sheri Sangji, an UPTE-CWA member at UC Los Angeles, UPTE-CWA made health and safety prevention and training a high priority. The new contract establishes health and safety stewards and provides UPTE access to information about health and safety incidents and inspections. UPTE will initiate a campaign of member education and action to make our workplaces as safe as possible.

UPTE-CWA members on state funds will receive the same pay increases as all other employees but may receive reductions in time to make up for the state budget shortfall. This solution provides these members with the base pay increases that affect their compensation in the long run and their pension.

The lack of adequate state funding and gradual privatization of the University of California remain as major obstacles to providing the quality education and public service which UPTE-CWA members are committed. UPTE-CWA will take further legislative measures such as supporting the California Federation of Teachers march through the San Joaquin Valley for California’s future and the ballot initiative for Majority Rule sponsored by Californians for Democracy.

“We hope that with this contract settled we can work in a more coordinated manner with UC to seek additional state funds. We will want to make sure that any scarce funds allocated to UC come with accountability and assurances that these funds will keep down student fees and provide adequate services,” suggests Jelger Kalmijn.