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Assembly California Legislature



ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

STANDING COMMITTEES
CHAIR, HIGHER EDUCATION
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
PUBLIC SAFETY
TRANSPORTATION

August 20, 2008

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

Dear President Yudoff and Regents:

It has come to my attention that the University of California's policy of linking employee wages to the state's budget allocation needs to be updated to reflect the importance of UC employees to its operation and reputation.

UC employees significantly contribute to UC's international reputation for excellence in laboratory research. 32% attrition in UC lab positions causes a negative proportion of workers to have 5 or fewer years of experience. Also concerning is less experienced employees are commanding 10-20% lower wages compared to others in the same labor market. These trends may negatively affect the institution.

I understand that research grants from outside institutions like the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense and NASA may include wage escalators if requested. I hope that you will begin to ensure these provisions are included. Suppression of wages may have unwanted consequences that will further economic difficulties.

Please review the aforementioned policy as it pertains to the collective bargaining for campus-based employees and ensure that all UC employees are being treated fairly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony J. Portantino".

ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO
Assemblymember, 44th AD

E2f:th/tc

Representing Cities

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