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- FINAL/UPDATED VERSION SENT JAN. 23, 2026 5:45 PM

SUBJECT: Urgent request from 74 UCR faculty colleagues

January 23, 2026 (updated)

Dear Chancellor Hu, Provost Watkins, and Divisional Chair Barish:

This is a time of emergency for people targeted by the intensified mobilization of ICE in the Inland Empire. Many of those targeted by this geographic concentration of state terror are the students, staff, and faculty of the UCR campus.

As you may already know, there have been recent and confirmed threats of ICE surveillance, detention, and potential kidnapping in the nearby areas of Jurupa Valley, Fontana, San Bernardino, Montclair, Coachella Valley, and elsewhere. There are strongly credible accounts that ICE personnel have recently parked their vehicles and/or lodged at the Mission Inn hotel in Downtown Riverside. Local nonprofit organization Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, among others, has rigorously fact-checked and judiciously circulated vital information regarding the ICE presence for months.

Given the accelerated threat such state violence presents to members of the UCR campus community, we write with two urgent demands that seek nothing else than for you to fulfill the basic mission of your respective offices:

1. Issue a public statement that UCR's administrative and Academic Senate Leadership is aware of the intensified mobilization of ICE in the Inland Empire and is aware that the imminent danger this mobilization presents to members of the campus community extends beyond the physical boundaries of the UCR campus.

2. Building on preceding examples of measures taken during the COVID-19 pandemic and the period of distress, trauma, and asymmetric suffering following the police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, as well as guidelines outlined in the recent report of the UC Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions (UCAD), announce a relaxation of normative instructional policies to allow extended use of online instruction in lieu of in-person classes. While many if not most instructors may continue to hold in-person classes, we encourage you to create an equitable, reasonable plan that anticipates some students—and faculty—may potentially suffer adverse academic and professional consequences for choosing to avoid commuting to campus during this time as a direct result of the ICE threat.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sent on behalf of the undersigned UCR colleagues,

1. Dylan Rodríguez, Distinguished Professor, Dept. of Black Study, Dept. of Media and Cultural Studies, former Divisional Chair of the UCR Academic Senate (2016-2020)
2. Dana Simmons, Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Society, Environment and Health Equity
3. Mark Minch-de Leon, Associate Professor, English, Co-Director of the California Center for Native Nations
4. Jacques Lezra, Distinguished Professor, Hispanic Studies and English
5. Cristina Gomez-Vidal, Assistant Professor, Department of Society, Environment and Health Equity
6. andré carrington, Associate Professor of English
7. Elyse Ambrose, Associate Professor, Black Study and Study of Religion
8. Setsu Shigematsu, Professor, Media and Cultural Studies
9. Susan Laxton, Associate Professor and Chair, Art History
10. Anthea Kraut, Professor and Vice-Chair, Department of Dance
11. Anna Betbeze, Associate Professor and Chair, Art
12. Crystal Mun-hye Baik, Chair and Associate Professor, Gender & Sexuality Studies
13. Keith Miyake, Assistant Professor, Ethnic Studies and Labor Studies
14. Judith Rodenbeck, Professor, Media & Cultural Studies

15. Jennifer Syvertsen, Associate Professor of Anthropology
16. Jeffrey Sacks, Chair and Professor, Department of Comparative Literature and Languages, Faculty, Middle East and Islamic Studies
17. Farah Godrej, Professor, Political Science, Co-Director, UCR LIFTED
18. Anne McKnight, Vice Chair, Associate Professor, Comparative Literature and Languages
19. Sean Milanovich, Professor Cahuilla Language and Studies, Department of Comparative Literature and Languages
20. Iván Eusebio Aguirre Darancou, Associate Professor, Hispanic Studies
21. Taisha Paggett, Associate Professor and Chair, Dance.
22. Latipa, Associate Professor, Media and Cultural Studies
23. Kyle Khellaf, Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature and Languages
24. Emily Graham, Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature and Languages
25. Victoria Reyes, Associate Professor, Gender & Sexuality Studies
26. Carlos Varón González, Associate Professor, Hispanic Studies
27. Anusha Kedhar, Associate Professor, Dance
28. Heather Rastovac Akbarzadeh, Assistant Professor, Dance
29. Trisha Remetir, Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature and Languages
30. María del Rosario Acosta López, Professor, Hispanic Studies
31. John Kim, Associate Professor, Comparative Literature and Languages
32. Alessandro Fornazzari, Associate Professor, Hispanic Studies
33. Tanya Nieri, Professor, Sociology
34. María Regina Firmino-Castillo, Assistant Professor, Dance
35. Jade Sasser, Associate Professor, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Society, Environment & Health Equity
36. Tod Goldberg, Professor, Director, Palm Desert MFA
37. Katja M. Guenther, Professor of Gender & Sexuality Studies
38. Chikako Takeshita, Associate Professor of Society, Environment, and Health Equity
39. Fariba Zarinebaf, Professor, History
40. Tuppett Yates, Chair, Psychology
41. Jacqueline Shea Murphy, Professor, Department of Dance
42. Courtney R. Baker, Associate Professor, English
43. Sarita Echavez See, Professor Emerita, English
44. Emma Stapely, Associate Professor, English
45. Marta Hernández Salván, Associate Professor, Hispanic Studies
46. Liz Przybylski, Professor, Ethnomusicology
47. Ellen Reese, Professor of Society, Environment & Health Equity and Director of Labor Studies
48. Anthony R. Jerry, Associate Professor, Black Study
49. Jaye Austin Williams, Associate Professor, Black Study

50. Laila Lalami, Distinguished Professor, Creative Writing
51. Xóchitl C. Chávez, Associate Professor of Music.
52. Halle R. Dimsdale-Zucker, Assistant Professor, Psychology
53. Kiera Midori Coulter, Assistant Professor, Psychology
54. Brent Hughes, Associate Professor, Psychology
55. Annie S. Ditta, Associate Professor of Teaching, Psychology
56. Deepa Ramamurthy, Assistant Professor, Psychology
57. Megan Robbins, Associate Professor, Psychology
58. Freya Schiwy, Professor, Media and Cultural Studies
59. Diamond Bravo, Assistant Professor, Psychology
60. Na Yeon Kim, Assistant Professor, Psychology
61. Jennifer Merolla, Professor, Political Science
62. Erin Lam, Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature and Languages
63. Desireé Melonas, Assistant Professor, Black Study and Political Science
64. Christina Torres, Professor and Chair, Anthropology
65. Sara K. Becker, Associate Professor of Anthropology
66. Christina Schwenkel, Professor, Anthropology
67. Christopher Seiji Berardino, Assistant Professor, English
68. Michelle Raheja, Professor, English
69. Jonathan Ritter, Associate Professor, Music
70. Elizabeth Berger, Associate Professor, Anthropology
71. Jose Luis Reynoso, Associate Professor, Dance
72. Rachel Wu, Associate Professor, Psychology
73. Kalina Michalska, Associate Professor, Psychology
74. Adrián Félix, Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies