Proposal to Add Referendum to Amalgamate UAW 5810/2865 on October 2023 Ballot

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The Amalgamation Committee was formed following the Amalgamation Exploration Resolution passed at the April 2023 Statewide Monthly Membership Meeting by Local 2865 and Local 5810. The committee is composed of eleven members of each Local Union (11 from 5810 and 11 from 2865), as well as two non-voting ex-officio members (presidents of 2865 and 5810). The committee was charged with the following tasks:

1) Research other local unions with multiple and/or amalgamated units to see their leadership structure, with an emphasis on academic unions
2) Collect robust and representative feedback from members
3) Develop and present options for leadership structures and a potential timeline regarding a deliberation and decision-making process (e.g. referendum vote) - this will be presented at the July Joint Council meeting for the body's consideration
4) Present scope of potential changes that need further investigation

Since its formation, the Amalgamation Committee has met regularly to begin carrying out this work, split generally between categories of research and member engagement. The research findings of the Amalgamation Committee are as presented in this memo.

Intransigence by UC in contract implementation across the four bargaining units, and severe retaliation against UCSD UAW members necessitates immediate continued close collaboration between locals. This, together with the timeline of the April 2024 triennial election, in which all Joint Council seats will be up for election, leads the Amalgamation Committee to recommend the potential amalgamation of Local 2865 and Local 5810 by April 2024. Amalgamation would be decided by a membership referendum vote in October 2023, to allow education and discussion ahead of a vote and potential bylaws changes between the vote and the January 2024 Joint Council meeting. Amalgamation of the locals is a decision of great magnitude in which every member should have a voice. For this reason, the committee recommends that the locals hold a membership vote this fall to decide whether the locals should amalgamate.

In order to solicit robust member participation and feedback ahead of a vote, the Amalgamation Committee will develop sample campus-level Monthly Membership Meeting agendas; assist departments in bringing together broad, representative information and discussion spaces; and host statewide webinars over the course of August 2023-September 2023. Joint Council members of both locals shall commit to building a large team to get out the referendum vote on their campuses and implementing the mechanisms for member engagement through MMMs and other intra-campus union spaces.

In order to develop robust member input and feedback into the bylaws of the proposed amalgamation, the Amalgamation Committee will facilitate an open discussion of the Amalgamation Memo and proposed bylaws. Participants will review each section of the proposed bylaws/memo and share questions, concerns, ideas, and suggestions. An invite will be sent to all members of each local to be included in the open discussion of the proposed bylaws.

The Amalgamation Committee will meet with the Bylaws Committees over the course of August 2023-September 2023 to finalize a structure for an amalgamated union that would not conflict with any other existing bylaws or the UAW Constitution. If the membership votes to amalgamate, proposed bylaws will be voted upon at the January 2024 Joint Council meeting.

Be it resolved, the Joint Councils of UAW 2865 and UAW 5810 adopt the findings of the Amalgamation Committee's memo.

Be it further resolved, UAW 2865 and UAW 5810 will hold membership votes on a referendum to amalgamate locals in October 2023, with the tentative pre- and post-vote timelines for research and member engagement outlined in this resolution.