

Subject: **Cops Off Campus Nationwide Day of Refusal: May 3**

Dear UC Community Member:

Abolition May is a month-long series of actions on campuses across the U.S. to demand the removal of campus police. Abolition May begins with a call for a [nationwide day of refusal on May 3rd, 2021](#). Withdrawal signifies full work stoppage including virtual work and email response (auto-reply template available); non-attendance of classes; and other forms of labor withdrawal. The month's actions will culminate on May 25, in commemoration of the anniversary of George Floyd's murder by members of the Minneapolis police department.

Inspired by tens of thousands of workers who have walked off the job to protest anti-Black police violence [in recent years](#), we take up the call for police abolition on our campuses, joining more than forty campuses across Turtle Island in demanding an end to campus policing. Historically and in the present, UC police departments have brutalized students and surveilled and assaulted activists while enforcing racialized campus borders; the UC has also played a violent and continuous role in global U.S. policing projects. You can learn more about the Cops Off Campus campaign [here](#) and [here](#).

On May 3, UC systemwide and campus organizations ask you to honor a nationwide campus picket line by absenting yourself from class and otherwise withholding your labor in support of the [demand to abolish campus police](#).

Honoring the picket line could mean:

- Joining the picket line on your campus;
- Canceling or refusing to attend a synchronous class;
- Refusing to watch asynchronous lectures;
- Refusing to pre-record a class or prepare other materials for later asynchronous use;
- Refusing to engage in other forms of university-based labor, including email response;
- Protecting any students, colleagues, and workers from retaliation;
- Attending a regional walkout action.

Here are some templates for messaging to send to your friends and colleagues, your instructors and your students, to coworkers and administrators:

- Instructors supporting the movement can find language to send students [here](#);

- Students can find language to send to their instructors [here](#) and their supervisors [here](#) (*consider sending messages collectively, as a class or group of workers, to create mutual support*);
- Student to student and social media posts, [here](#);
- Faculty to faculty, [here](#); Department Chairs/graduate directors, [here](#);
- Non-retaliation language can be found [here](#);
- Sample language for syllabi [here](#), and
- Sample out of office replies [here](#).

We are stronger together. Honoring this picket line supports both a long history and a present moment of necessary action toward a safer, freer world. Join us!

Signed,

The UC Cops Off Campus Coalition