

UC Librarians' Contract Bargaining Heating Up

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UC librarians will continue to bring on the heat during their fourth contract bargaining meeting with the UC Office of the President at UCLA's Young Research Library on July 26. A rally in support of UC librarians will be held at noon in front of Young Research Library.

Librarians will present new language that addresses increased abuse by UC library administration: in particular, the practice of hiring temporary appointments over potential career librarian positions. A group of temporary librarians from UCLA's Special Collections are currently in grievance over this practice and will help present the article during Thursday's bargaining. To learn more about their grievance, read their letter addressing the issue: <https://tinyurl.com/UCLAtemps>

UC librarian members of Unit 17 represented by the University of Council - American Federation of Teachers (UC-AFT) began contract bargaining on April 17, 2018. To date, one-third of the proposed changes have been shared with the UC's bargaining team, and we are waiting for their response to those proposals. They include improvements to the peer-review and discipline/dismissal process along with two new articles addressing long overdue needs related to librarians' academic status: academic freedom and sabbaticals. Future bargaining will take place August 8 (UCB) and August 28 (UCSD), and additional dates are being scheduled. The UC Librarian contract expires on September 30.

More than 300 librarians play a critical role in supporting and contributing to the University of California's mission to teach, conduct research, and provide public service to 10 campuses and affiliates with over 330,000 students and faculty. The University of California (UC) rightly prides itself as being a World Class Institution of research, scholarship and education, and any such organization needs the vital expertise and dedication of World Class Librarians.

UC-AFT is the union of more than 3,000 Non-Senate Faculty and 300 Librarians who are employed at the ten campuses of the University of California. Formally organized on June 19, 1971 when seven AFT locals at the University of California voted to establish themselves as a council. Following the passage in 1978 of the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relation Act (HEERA), which allowed for collective bargaining in the UC system, representation elections were held for two groups of employees--librarians and non-Senate faculty (lecturers). In June 1983, librarians (Unit 17) voted to be represented by UC-AFT and began bargaining that December. The lecturers (Unit 18) followed suit the next year.

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