

June 18, 2018

President Janet Napolitano
University of California
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear President Napolitano:

As contingent faculty and librarians represented by UC-AFT, we work with undocumented students at the University of California on a daily basis. Your initiative to support the UC's undocumented students and your lawsuit against the Trump administration's rescission of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) have been powerful advocacy for some of our most vulnerable community members.

Today, we ask that you extend that leadership to immediately canceling the UC's contract with General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT), a defense contractor. The UC currently contracts out the management and administration of the Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) to GDIT. Many UC faculty, including a number of our members, score more than 16,000 AWPE exams taken by admitted first-year students every year. During that process, we are in regular communication with GDIT staff. GDIT is also a contractor for the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement and employs staff who support and facilitate the forced separation of children and parents seeking asylum at the U.S. border.

Contracting out an educational process is a questionable practice for a university to begin with. Contracting out to a defense contractor forces faculty to be complicit with war profiteering. Contracting out to a defense contractor that enables the U.S. government to rip children away from their parents and place them in concentration camps is an unconscionable moral failing.

In the strongest possible terms, we urge you to halt the UC's participation in these abuses by immediately withdrawing from any and all agreements between the UC and GDIT.

Sincerely,

UC-AFT Executive Board
Mia L. McIver, UCLA
Axel Borg, UC Davis
Ben Harder, UC Riverside
Roxi Power, UC Santa Cruz
Miki Goral, UCLA