

Newly-Revealed Federal Demands Would Put Ideology at Heart of University of California

Students, faculty, and labor leaders gather Monday at 12 p.m. at UCLA to protest demands

THE TEN CAMPUSES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, Friday, Oct. 24 – Donald Trump’s extortion campaign threatens the fabric of California’s flagship university system. Today, Californians learned just how dangerous Trump’s demands are.

California Superior Court Judge Rebekah Evenson ordered the demand letter from the Trump Administration released to the public, in response to a lawsuit by the UCLA Faculty Association and the Council of UC Faculty Associations. The associations posted the letter today as soon as they received it, after the California Supreme Court denied an appeal of the release order this afternoon.

Donald Trump is demanding the university system pay \$1.127 billion — a staggering figure representing more than the tuition and fees paid by UCLA students in a year altogether, according to a recent budget — which would shut down essential research, raise tuition, increase class sizes, force workers to work longer hours with less pay, and admit fewer California students.

But the letter reveals just how much further the extortion goes. Among the sweeping demands:

- Restricts who can attend an institution driving social mobility in California for decades;
- Dictates what care doctors can provide to the million+ patients of UCLA Health;
- Imposes an ideological purity test on foreign students;
- Defines gender as binary, with implications for trans and nonbinary faculty, workers, and students, and undermines lifesaving research in the biological sciences;
- Installs a federal monitor to oversee decisions that belong in the hands of Californians;
- Muzzles students and faculty, preventing free inquiry and holding back innovation;
- Requires sensitive student and faculty information be shared with the federal government.

“We demand Governor Newsom make good on his promise to fight back against these unjust, illegal, unconstitutional attacks on our public university,” said UCLA Faculty Association President Anna Markowitz. “It is not just today’s students and workers who will be harmed by this gross federal overreach — but generations of Californians.”

“The University of California cannot survive these demands as the engine of social transformation it is today,” said Council of UC Faculty Associations Co-President Annie McClanahan. “If UC cannot admit students of color and support their studies, cannot hire top researchers born outside the United States, cannot safeguard its immigrants students and workers, it will no longer truly serve the citizens of California. It will serve Donald Trump. We have to stand up and fight back.”

PRESS AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENT

WHAT: Students, faculty, and union leaders representing UC workers discuss Trump's demands

WHEN: Monday, Oct. 27, 2025, at 12 p.m.

WHERE: UCLA campus, bottom of Tongva/Janss Steps

Speakers and attorneys will be available to speak to press after the event.

Contacts:

Zoé Hamstead, Chair of external relations and legal affairs of CUCFA (zhamstead@gmail.com)

Anna Markowitz, President of the UCLA Faculty Association (markowitz.anna@gmail.com)

Abenicio Cisneros, attorney for UCLA FA and CUCFA (acisneros@capublicrecordslaw.com)