The Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA (Bunche Center) supports research dedicated to improving the conditions of Black life. In response to the continued strike of UC system graduate student workers and other staff, the Bunche Center issued the following statement:

“Supporting Black Studies research requires supporting Black Studies scholars. As a center dedicated to the history and study of Black life – and one established through student protest – we remember Frederick Douglass’ instruction, that: ‘power cedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.’ That is why the Bunche Center fully supports the UAW’s core demands, including higher pay scales, sustainable transit incentives, improved accessibility, and better support for parents and families.

Those on the frontlines of this fight are people we know and collaborate with every day and whose work is essential not only to the important research we produce but to educating the thousands of students who attend UCs. We believe that the personal sacrifices these workers are making to demand a living wage and other benefits will improve equity and working conditions for the UC system as a whole. Their actions will ensure we are able to make good on the UC’s mandate to provide an accessible education while producing cutting-edge research for the public good.

The Bunche Center remains committed to building an equitable work environment, and to paying the living wages all graduate students and postdoctoral fellows deserve and need. As Black Studies scholars, we know the costs of marginalization, and the power to create change when we stand together as one. With that in mind, the Bunche Center supports their efforts to create a workplace where everyone can thrive. We stand ready to make new investments in the well-being and success of our affiliated researchers.”