Hello Community,

We, the Community Advocates and Staff of the AB540 & Undocumented Student Center, want to address our decision to remain open during the May 7-9 AFSCME Service Workers Strike. This decision was made between Community Advocate Interns and Staff present at our Friday May 4th meeting, by majority vote. Those present at the meeting made the very difficult decision to continue to serve our student community during the strike by remaining open. In lieu of closing our doors, we showed solidarity with the service workers by displaying a poster outside our window, by having information about the strike playing on our dashboard and by prefacing our previously scheduled events with a discussion about the strike. We believe that we showed solidarity without compromising the valuable resources: meal cards, safe space, funding via emergency grants, and availability for legal counsel that our community needs that no other center can provide. Interns and Staff were notified of their rights to participate in the strike via an email of the AFSCME flyers and strike information, in addition to an in-person discussion at our staff seminar. These rights included not attending their regular hours and/or attending strike demonstrations without repercussion.

We recognize that not everyone was pleased by our decision to remain open. We value and encourage input of any event that may happen, especially ahead of the event, so that we can plan accordingly and inclusively. We welcome feedback from our community via proactive methods such as in-person meetings with the staff, or inviting our staff to converse with the concerned individuals/organization about the decisions made at the Center. We recognize that we learned important lessons as Community Advocate Interns and Staff, especially around the transparency and communication of our decisions. We will be sure to release statements when we make decisions, such as these, before events (strikes, protests, etc.) occur, so that you, our community members, are informed of why we are making these decisions.

Thank you for your continued support, trust and hard work in making our campus inclusive and welcoming. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to email our director, Andrea Gaytan at agaytan@ucdavis.edu, who will bring these to our staff seminar for discussion.

Warmly,
The AB540 & Undocumented Student Center Staff
Andrea Gaytan
Montserrat Garcia-Juarez
Fatima Garcia
Muthia Kamila Faizah
Carla Trujillo
Jesica Cuervo
Hector Gamero