



December 6, 2023

USC Office of the President
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0012
president@usc.edu

RE: WGAW Support for USC Adjunct Faculty Alliance

Dear President Folt, Provost Guzman and Dean Daley,

On behalf of the Writers Guild of America West (WGAW), a union that represents over 11,000 writers in television and film, we write to express our strong support for the USC Adjunct Faculty Alliance, and for the USC Administration to voluntarily recognize their union.

Many of these adjuncts in the USC School of Cinematic Arts (SCA) — generally working professionals in the industry — are entertainment union members, some with the WGAW. They have chosen to share their wisdom and knowledge with the students at USC. They are creatives and award-winners on some of the most recognized films and TV shows, and are training future colleagues and fellow Guild members. They have done this partly as an act of service, to give back, but also to sustain themselves in an industry that is notoriously competitive and cyclical.

It has come to our attention that while USC's SCA is proudly one of the most prestigious cinema programs in the country, the pay for adjuncts is significantly less than other top film schools. Many adjuncts are reporting that they are working more hours than they are paid for while losing their health insurance and other benefits. They are also being restricted from teaching a second class. This treatment is unjust. Adjunct professors deserve better.

We urge USC to recognize the Alliance and to bargain with the AFA-UAW in good faith for better wages and dignified working conditions for adjunct professors. Other top universities including NYU, the New School for Social Research, and the University of California have recently recognized adjuncts in their unionization efforts. We encourage USC to do the same and to treat these professors fairly.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best regards,

WGAW Officers:

Meredith Stiehm, President

Michele Mulroney, Vice President

Betsy Thomas, Secretary Treasurer