# California Public Employment Relations Board denies UC request to stop academic workers' strike



On Thursday, the California Public Employment Relations Board declined the University of California's request to halt an ongoing strike by academic workers. The strike, initiated by United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 4811, claims violations of free speech related to Israel-Hamas protests and other workers' rights issues. The union, representing 48,000 workers, including teaching assistants and researchers across the UC system, began the walkout at UC Santa Cruz and plans to expand to UC Davis and UCLA.

The university argued the strike violated a no-strike clause in the union contract but the labor board ruled against an injunction, insufficiently establishing the need for immediate relief. The legal battle continues with both sides filing complaints of unfair labor practices. The strike could potentially impact end-of-year academic activities and may spread to other campuses.

The backdrop includes increased campus activism over the Israel-Hamas conflict, leading to violent counterprotests at UCLA, resulting in over 200 arrests. Separately, an 18-year-old was arrested for assaulting protesters at UCLA. UCLA Chancellor Gene Block testified before Congress regarding the handling of protests and campus safety measures.

The university maintains that union negotiations should focus on employment terms and not political demands, while academic workers advocate for better protections and free speech rights on campus.