

LETTER TO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA FACULTY FROM THE COPS OFF CAMPUS COALITION

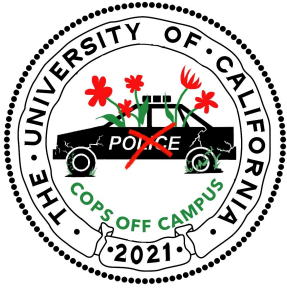
Dear fellow faculty,

We reach out to you today from the faculty group of the COPS OFF CAMPUS COALITION, an abolitionist group acting across all ten campuses of the University of California, many of the CSUs, and various university-affiliated communities. Our formation has emerged amidst a global pandemic, relentless state and vigilante violence against Black, brown, and Indigenous people, and national calls for abolition. The movement to get cops off campus is led by BIPOC community members, students, and graduate and other workers across UC campuses. As faculty organizers, we join this coalition for abolition: a call to imagine all of our campuses without police by Fall 2021.

As the largest land grant university in the country and as a research base for the U.S. military, the University of California has long perpetuated settler and carceral logics in California and internationally. As UC faculty, we seek to build an abolitionist infrastructure with colleagues, students, and other community members that will negate campus police as a viable institution while moving us toward the decolonization of the university: the full abolition of the profit model that drives higher education in the United States and the instantiation of an educational commons grounded in collaborative care.

How do we get there? We are building a campaign that is accountable to our workplaces and communities as well in coalition with broader movements against anti-Black state terrorism. We announced the campaign publicly on social media on 9/1, with tremendous success. We will also participate in a system-wide day of action on 10/1: in person and online abolition action on all 10 UC campuses and much of the CSU system, with the goal of inviting our communities into the abolitionist project and asking them to join us in our 2020-2021 campaign.

The next page details seven ways that you can contribute to this campaign on your campus and beyond, now!



7 WAYS UC FACULTY CAN SUPPORT THE COPS OFF CAMPUS COALITION CAMPAIGN:

1. **Join us!** Organizers of the 10/1 events are asking colleagues with classes scheduled on October 1st to participate in, and encourage their students to participate in, these activities, virtually or otherwise.
2. **Campus actions:** Information about the 10/1 protests on each campus is in this [one-page infosheet](#). We are making sure that protests will be accessible to all and will abide by COVID safety precautions for each action.
3. **Syllabus:** Add this or a similar statement to our syllabi and/or initial PowerPoint slides for the first day of classes: *"I acknowledge that policing disproportionately violates Black, Brown, Indigenous, queer, trans, and poor peoples and ultimately renders all members of campus and its surrounding communities less safe. I am committed to a public university that advances racial justice by ending such forms of harm, and I support students working towards this vision. Students participating in campus-wide actions on 10/1 will not be penalized in this class."*
4. **Digital participation:** If you are teaching on 10/1, you are encouraged to:
 - a. Use [our PowerPoint presentation](#) to teach about police abolition and the history of UCPD policing;
 - b. Circulate the printed [zine version](#) of this presentation;
 - c. Circulate the [attached infosheet](#) about the Cops Off Campus Coalition
 - d. Attend a [Cops Off Campus virtual teach-in](#) at 1pm, with Dylan Rodriguez, UCR. Use [our zoom virtual background pictures](#) and / or zoom profile pictures on October 1 to show support for the campaign.
 - e. Participate in [our virtual protest generator!](#) Upload a sign; it will generate an avatar participating in a virtual picket! The virtual protest goes live 10/1, 6:30pm on Twitch; click [here](#) to view.
5. **For more info or to get involved:** reach out to Professor SA Smythe and other Cops Off Campus faculty at ucwideabolition@gmail.com. Let them know if you are interested in supporting specific actions on 10/1 and beyond!
6. **Support!** You can purchase T-shirts and masks to show your support for this cause while also helping to fund the efforts of this collective. Your purchase contributes to ASL and Spanish language interpreters, outside facilitators, supplies for the 10/1 action, legal support, printing and more.
 - Cops Off Campus [Hoodies](#)
 - Cops Off Campus [LOGO Masks](#)
 - Plain text masks: [PLAIN TEXT Masks](#)