April 8, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) stands in solidarity with the queer, trans, gender non-conforming, people of color, and all other marginalized people within the University of California Santa Cruz. We are deeply disturbed and saddened by the violent hate crime that occurred at Kresge College in February 2015. As representatives of the graduate students on this campus, our goal is to build community and foster solidarity among graduate students. This damaging act of violence has shaken our community and made evident the current lack of programming, services, and trainings to prevent acts of violence and provide support for marginalized people on the UCSC campus.

On April 8, 2015 the GSA voted to endorse a petition to the Allison Galloway, Chancellor Blumenthal, and other UCSC administration asking that the current lack of programming, services, and trainings be immediately addressed. In solidarity, we support the following demands:

1) The immediate implementation of multi-stall all-gender restrooms within short walking distance of all classrooms, dining halls, and offices.

2) The immediate creation, implementation and enforcement of free self defense workshops/classes available university wide for all students.

3) The immediate creation, implementation and enforcement of mandatory university wide trainings/workshops to educate about queer, trans, and gender non-conforming life, existence, terminology, and issues to UC Santa Cruz current and future employees including Residential Assistants, current and future administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

4) The immediate creation and hire of multiple UC Santa Cruz Queer-Specialist Professional staff members, at least one of them being a Trans-Specialist, to focus on the implementation and enforcement of the above mentioned demands.

These services are essential for the safety and well-being of the UCSC community and, frankly, should have already been in place. We ask that administration respond immediately, and without hesitation, to ensure that all people on the UCSC campus can be present without fear of violence, intimidation, and discrimination.

All the best,

Jennifer Teschler & Nadia Roche, Co-presidents of the GSA, and the Graduate Representatives of the GSA