Oakes Academic Office Closed on May 7th, 8th, and possibly the 9th

Dear Oakes Students,

International Workers’ Day occurred on Tuesday, May 1st. Many people across the world participated in rallies, workshops and protests in solidarity with workers, immigrants and refugees. In the past, AFSCME, the union that represents service workers, bus drivers, and patient care workers at UC have called for a strike during this day; however, this year due to timing AFSCME has called for a three-day strike on May 7th, 8th and 9th. The Oakes Advising Team will not be crossing any picketlines and access to the campus may be limited. You can expect for our office to be closed throughout this time period, but we will continue to offer services remotely. Below you will find valuable information about our services.

Consider this advice as you move through the day:

- Check https://ucsc.edu/advisory, or by calling the campus communications hotline (459-INFO) for information about transportation, dining, and other services that could be impacted.
- If you were planning to speak to a college adviser on May 7, and May 8, please contact Oakes academic advisers via email at oakesadvising@ucsc.edu. Expect a response to emails within 48 hours, however we will monitor for any urgent emails that come in throughout the day. The strike may last through the 9th, please check the Oakes Advising Website for updates.
- Attend drop-in advising on May 10th and 11th for more immediate assistance.
- For those of you who have booked appointments with us during these days, we will be contacting you either via G-Chat or phone so that we may answer your questions and concerns.
- The main office will be closed. There will be limited hours for the mailroom, which will be posted on the mailroom door. Regular hours will resume on May 10th if not sooner.
- Take some time to learn about International Workers’ Day: This article describes how many across the world are thinking about International Workers’ Day, as does this article; this article tells a bit about the history of Lucy Gonzales Parsons, the person who is widely recognized as the driving force behind the beginning of International Workers’ Day.

Sincerely,
Oakes Advising
Below is additional information that was put together by organizers about why they have chosen to strike at UCSC:

**What is the strike about?**
AFSCME has been in contract negotiations with the University for nearly two years. They are at impasse and recently had the university implement a really bad contract on them. Major points of contention between the Union and the university are:

1. **Wages**—AFSCME workers are the lowest paid workers at UC and the University wants to eliminate step increases and only give them 2%-3% annual raises.
2. **Retirement**: UC wants a tiered system that raises the retirement age for some workers to 65; they want to put workers into risky 401k plans. The Union wants stable pensions with no new tier, and a retirement age of 60.
3. **Healthcare**: The University is trying to raise insurance premiums and cut benefits; The Union wants to keep the current healthcare benefits that they have
4. **Contracting-Out**: The union wants an end to the University “contracting-out” their jobs to private companies with non-union workforces.