FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- MEDIA ADVISORY

CSU Statement Regarding the One-Day Strike Announced by UAW
First Contract Negotiations Disrupted by Illegal UAW Activity

"We are disappointed that the United Automobile Workers (UAW) is attempting to influence the outcome of bargaining by calling for an illegal strike and filing an unfair labor practice charge with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB)," said CSU spokesperson Clara Potes-Fellow. "The union is not legally permitted to strike as a way to pressure the CSU to make bargaining concessions. We will be addressing the legality of the union's tactics with PERB very shortly."

The California State University recognized the UAW in September 2004 and has been bargaining with the union since early November. The parties are bargaining the very first contract between the UAW and the CSU regarding the wages and working conditions for 6,000 student employees whose primary responsibilities involve teaching, tutoring or grading.

One of the union's allegations is that the CSU is failing to provide confidential student information that the union has been seeking. The CSU has informed the union repeatedly that the information is confidential and protected by federal law. The CSU will not violate students' rights by releasing that information to anyone.

The union has filed an unfair labor charge in order to strike because it cannot legally strike regarding bargaining issues.

The union's tactic is surprising since the parties are scheduled to resume bargaining on Thursday, December 16, 2004. "We are committed to bargaining in good faith and we have been meeting continuously with the union since bargaining began," Potes-Fellow said.

Should a strike occur, CSU campuses will remain open, and students will be expected to take exams as scheduled. If there are picket lines at the entrance to campus or campus buildings, students and employees must find an alternate entrance, if they choose not to cross the picket lines.

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