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University of California Observatories
Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at UCSC

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To Members of the UCSC Astronomy Community:

Friday October 9th, *Buzzfeed* broke the news that prominent astronomer and UC Santa Cruz alumnus Geoffrey Marcy was found by UC Berkeley to have violated campus sexual harassment policies between 2001 and 2010.

As leaders of the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at UCSC and the University of California Observatories (whose headquarters are at UCSC), we are writing to express our resolute support for the people who were targets of Geoff Marcy's inappropriate behavior and those who have bravely brought this to the attention of UC Berkeley authorities and spoken publicly about their experiences.

Students place tremendous trust in their teachers and mentors and it is a fundamental obligation of the University, Department, Observatory, and each of us individually, to ensure that trust is well placed. One of our most fundamental obligations is to deserve that trust. Any violation of this trust damages our respective missions by undermining the freedoms of inquiry and expression.

We want to make it unmistakably clear to every member of the faculty and academic staff, to every employee and every student that sexual harassment will not be tolerated in our community. Individuals who violate this policy should be subject to strong disciplinary action.

The Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at UCSC and the University of California Observatories are committed to creating and maintaining an environment where all members of the academic community are able to work together and to pursue collegial study in an atmosphere of mutual respect, civility and trust.

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