Hello Everyone,

I hope this letter finds you all well! I miss you all a lot being away from Senate and UCSB as a whole to study abroad comes with expected bitter sweet feelings. Regardless, I am excited for this quarter ready to see how much of a positive impact we can make as the newly formed 68th Senate.

As such, I’m happy to present, with the great help of Deepika, “A Resolution to Support the $48 Fix: Reclaiming California's Master Plan for Higher Education” with my co-author Senator Reyes and student Sponsors Spencer and Woodrow.

The goal of this resolution is simple: to make sure that we as a state are able to reclaim higher education. That simply means making everything affordable once more, being able to benefit from systems prior generations were able to flourish in, not hinders by fetters of debt, increasing tuition, food insecurity, inaccessibility, and lack of resources. I’ve always hoped for tuition to become affordable, but have not always seen a plan that makes it feasible to do so.

Finally, we have one. One, if implemented, not only makes tuition free for all Californian public higher education, but also works to improve to quality of our education as well. Finally, we have a plan that is not just fiscally feasible but also fiscally responsible as well. The details will be gone over thoroughly as discussion on the resolution commences.

The main crux of this solution is that it has been implemented before. The resolution is a call to return to the Master Plan that Governor Pat Brown instituted in 1960, the same master plan that worked with flying colors for the Baby Boomer Generation. It is only fair that we are able to profit off the same system, when higher education is even more dire to the welfare of our careers and the economy itself. Instead of benefitting of such a system, we see our debt increasing, funding being cut, especially since the year 2000, an estimated $57 Billion had been withheld from California’s public higher education sector. This is simply unacceptable to me and to so many students who feel the burdens of trying to get a higher education without falling into an abyss of debt.

The state of education is in decline, the costs are skyrocketing, and privatization of higher ed has failed. The solution begins with us, with students. Learning about it and gathering support brings us one step closer into making this goal a reality. California has always been a pioneer in everything ranging from technology to social movements and education. It’s time we lead the change once more in something that will benefit everyone.

There really is no time to spare when it comes to releasing students from these chains. It’s time to move forward in a cohesive and pragmatic way. The Master Plan is the way to do it.

Thank you everyone for listening, I appreciate you all so much.

All the best,

Dhishal