Yesterday we were able to meet with a bipartisan group of legislators and legislative committee staff to speak on behalf of accessibility to student aid, protection of our vulnerable students and loan simplification and forgiveness. Since we are advocates for student needs in AS, these are necessary priorities.

From our conversations, we were able to gain connections with these legislative members to ultimately connect our testimonies to the facts they see on paper everyday. Representative Cardenas was even so receptive to our stories that he is now toying with the idea of introducing a bill regarding student loan interest rates. Our home rep, Congressman Carbajal is now looking into co-sponsoring a House Resolution to allow student loan forgiveness through the 10-10 model which is when student loan debt iscapped at 10% of discretionary income and after ten years, people can apply for loan forgiveness. These meetings matter when it comes to getting legislative work done. The initiation of this program matters.

This was only a one day, 6 student, pilot version of a legislative trip but due to it’s success, we can grow this into a week-long 30 student program and effectively lobby 20-30% of congress. This lock-in fee gives our University the potential to be a legislative influential powerhouse on a national level and builds our ability to bring practicality and experience to our University students to prepare them for the “real-world.” This lock-in fee and the work that is getting done as a result of this lock-in fee is unprecedented, innovative, and frankly, holds the potential to be a student advocacy landmark in ASUCSB history. To regard it as any less is a disservice to the work that is getting done and the history that can be made.