Dear UC Administration,

We, the Executive Board of Queer Commission, write this letter to display our complete and wholehearted support for the union strike that the graduate students here at UC Santa Barbara — and UC-wide — are demonstrating and fighting for. The cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) is a fight for basic, human rights. We, Queer Commission, are comprised of undergraduates who value and recognize how vital graduate students are at these institutions of higher education; their work critically impacts the students whom they teach; UCSB would be incomplete without graduate students who work as Teaching Assistants. The need for living adjustments simply reinforces that graduate students are human, too. Graduate students are not a commodity for these institutions; therefore, they deserve living wages in order to survive and prosper.

As undergrads of UCSB, we support and stand in solidarity with the graduate students. We further demand that there is no retaliation on behalf of the UCSB administration, especially towards the graduate students participating in the full-strike. We condemn any-and-all framing of the graduate student strike as harming undergraduate students. We support their fight to make the University of California an equitable, supportive institution for those who inhabit and work it. As long as our graduate students are being overtly exploited, we will not remain silent.

Signed,

2019-2020 Executive Board of A.S: Queer Commission