Dear [xx],

I’m writing to you because the Financial Aid office sent an email out to instructors on Wednesday, listing several students in the class and requesting that grades be submitted for those students today. I wanted to let you know that your name was on the list. The email did not explain why the Financial Aid office needs grades to be submitted for those students, but we strongly believe that the large majority of the students on that list will not be negatively affected by missing grades (as I will explain below). Even so, I wanted to reach out to you to check in. If you haven’t received your Winter aid disbursement yet, or are aware of some other negative consequence to you due to missing grades, I want to make sure I submit your grades so you are not affected.

Here is what we know about this email:

**This is not a list of students who have had their Winter aid delayed.** We have heard from many undergrads now who have told us they were listed in the email, but they have not experienced any delays in their aid or received any contact from the Financial Aid office. Winter aid has already disbursed, so if your aid was delayed, you would know about it by now. **If you have experienced delays in your financial aid because of the strike, please tell let me know and I will submit your grade immediately.**

It appears that the reason for the Financial Aid email is that the federal government requires UCSC to verify that students actually attended the term for which they received their financial aid (in this case, Fall quarter). This is typically verified by students’ grades - if they earned a grade, that is proof that they attended. If all of a student’s grades are left blank, the university cannot use grades to verify that student’s attendance. The federal government will require that UCSC return the funds disbursed for each student for whom they cannot verify attendance. **The deadline of today for submitting grades is related to a reporting deadline for these federal regulations - it is NOT a deadline after which some negative consequence will happen to the listed students.** If the UC is required to return aid funds to the federal government due to missing grades, the UC has the power to decide whether to repay those funds out of the UC’s pocket or by billing undergrad students retroactively for Fall tuition. **We do not believe that the UC would bill students with missing grades.** Imagine if students were to be held financially responsible because of events completely outside of their control. If the UC were to make this decision - to penalize undergraduate students for no fault of their own - they would be subject to massive backlash, including lawsuits. Additionally, if you have any grades submitted for last quarter, you may not be subject to this at all. In any case, if there are any consequences, they will likely not happen for some time, and you can always decide to have me submit your grade later if Financial Aid tells you that there will be some consequence for you if your grade is missing.

Financial Aid can’t tell me anything about your specific case, so I can’t be sure that this is why you were included, but if you are concerned, I encourage you to contact the Financial Aid office and ask them why you were on this list. I am also happy to talk through this information with you and help you decide whether you would like me to submit your grade or not. If you feel comfortable doing so, I encourage you to continue to allow your grade to be withheld - we have learned that the UC administration is deliberately trying to break the strike by getting undergrads to request their grades.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to meet to discuss this. I and the other striking grads care deeply about our students and we will continue to look out for you as best we can throughout the strike. Your support means everything to us.

Best,

[xx]