We are a grassroots organization that formed in the spring of 2014. We came together in response to the San Diego State administration’s failure to live up to its original mission statement: to provide a high quality affordable education. Specifically, the so called Student Success Fee. Other influences in our formation have been the courses that we have taken and a few professors. This organization is our response. It is an organization of students and others committed to the principles of social justice. We believe that our generation may be the last generation to have the opportunity to shape society in a just way.

We believe that social institutions should be organized in a way that benefits all of the people:

Real democracy means the policies, practices and institutions should benefit all the people. We believe that our democracy has become rule by the rich and corporations, who are the primary beneficiaries of the policies, practices and institutional arrangements. Corporations are not “persons” and money does not equal free speech. A true democracy is “of the people, by the people and for the people,” and we do not believe that is a cliché or impossibility.

The economic system needs to be democratized so that production and distribution of goods and services benefit and are available to all of the people. We believe that every person should be guaranteed a decent living, with minimal hours of labor, maximum leisure time, a decent retirement and free health care of the highest quality.

The educational system should not be solely or primarily a vocational institution, but should be an institution that has as its primary goal to “bring forth” the imagination, creativity, critical thinking and complex reasoning skills of each student.

We believe in becoming more active, more knowledgeable and more caring, so that we can transform society and its institutions into a just social order.

We believe and are committed to non-violence, but not non-action. We believe that every progressive change in society has come through social movements and that students have been a driving force in many of those movements. When we collectively determine it is necessary, we will act, but always non-violently.

We are not ashamed of our idealism; idealism has been the basis for every progressive change. And, ironically, most of those who criticize our values and ideals are beneficiaries of them.

In the beginning, we are going to focus on education in general and San Diego State University in particular. Our initial goals are going to be the following:

1. Create a website that is knowledge-based and informative. Ideas for the website include an online library of books, documentaries, and films, short lecture series, podcasts, and information on what resources are available to students.

2. Expand our membership base at SDSU. Ideas for this include talking with students in various disciplines, having teach-ins with supportive faculty, and holding work shops.

3. Reach out to other universities in the U.S. and in other countries and non-student groups. Ideas for this would be to contact friends and colleagues at other universities, contacting other similar groups through the internet

4. Create an SDSU Group that will monitor university polices, especially in regard to the University’s mission. But it will also monitor university practices in relation to student employees, including athletes, and violations of student rights.

5. Organize groups to work towards these early goals. We need four groups right now: a media group to get the website up and running, a group that would look into ways to broaden our base at SDSU, a group that would look at ways to reach out to other universities and off-campus groups, and an SDSU Group.