

49 Irving Street, #12,
Cambridge 38, Mass.

28th Nov. 1962.

Mr. Robert Sherman,
Director, Student Assistance Program,
Phelps Stokes Fund,
297 Park Avenue South,
New York 10, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Sherman,

I am sorry that I have not written to you since I came here. This has been due to the fact that I have been very busy getting myself settled and getting acquainted with the new surroundings.

On my arrival I sat for a mathematics test which is required of all the Ph.D. candidates who wish to substitute mathematics for languages and I was very happy when I passed it. It now exempts me from languages and it further exempts me from taking a required course in advanced calculus which I had taken previously. At the moment I am taking four full courses, which is the maximum that I am allowed and I am auditing three other courses. On all these courses we have not had any examinations and in others we may not have them. Of course we do not have examinations in the seminars. We only have to present papers at the end of the academic year and it is from these papers that we will know whether we have done satisfactorily or not before we sit for our generals. I intend to sit for my generals next fall, if all goes well, because I cannot as yet start working on my dissertation before I pass my generals. I will, nevertheless, keep you posted on my progress.

The Spring term starts on the 4th of February. So far my funds have been running very fast since I have to buy winter clothings. Also rents are very high here. I am therefore counting on your assistance for this spring term. The cost of living is very high in Boston area here. In fact I am surprised that even a hamburger is \$50 here, a thing I never experienced before/ The minimum one can live on here is \$200. So far I have completely no funds for the second semester. I do not even have anywhere to run to except to you. I shall therefore be most grateful if you will help me with the funds for the next semester as you promised me when I last talked with you when I was in New York. I am sure that if I can get the \$1,000 which I applied for I should be able to pull through the second semester.

I shall be most obliged if you will let me know the outcome as soon as possible. I would very much appreciate it if I could get the money before the beginning of the semester so that I can start planning ahead for the whole period.

I take this opportunity to thank you for all the assistance you have given to me previously. I will endeavour to show my further appreciation through a sound scholastic work.

Yours very sincerely,

Barack H. Obama

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