SUA Meeting 4/7/2015

Assembly Members Present: Art Motta (MEChA), Haedyn Christie (QSU), Cristal Gonzalez (SANAI), Jose Cadenas (Cowell), Yang Kong (Cowell), Seamus Howard (Cowell), Kyra Brandt (Stevenson), Ricardo Sainz (Stevenson), Andrew Paolini (Cowell), Michael Markson (Crown), Aykezar Adil (Crown), Chandler Moeller (Merrill), Alexandra Kasper (Merrill), Roxanna Gutierrez (Porter), Adham Taman (Porter), Serene Jneid (Porter), Winnie Sidhu (Kresge), Jackie Roger (Kresge), Suini Torres (Oakes), Kiana Coleman (Oakes), Tamra Owens (Oakes), Roshni Advani (Eight), Ray Inoue (Eight), Simba Khadder (Eight), Alternate Austin (Nine), Chandler McNeil (Nine), Shubhankar Sharan (Nine), Daniel Iglesias (Ten), Vanessa Sadsad (Ten), Brad Mleynek (OD), Louise Cabansay (EVC), Justin Lardinois (Chair).

Assembly Members Absent: Colin Hortman (Stevenson), Kartik Ashok (Merrill), Gul Taneri (Kresge), Sam Shaw (Nine), Ramneet Bajwa (Ten), Max Hufft (CoAA), Israel Molina (CoD), Kaysi Wheeler (IVC).

Approval of the Agenda:

Louise: Move to amend the agenda to add a UCSA LegCon report back after presentations for 15 minutes.

Roshni: Second.

Justin: Are there any objections? Seeing none, motion passes.

Vanessa: Move to approve.

Roshni: Second.

Justin: Are there any objections? Seeing none, motion passes.

Reading of the Previous Meeting’s Minutes:

Roshni: Motion to approve.

Shub: Second.

Justin: Are there any objections? Seeing none, motion passes.

Announcements:

Brad: This quarter my office and the Sustainability Office Zero Waste Team is putting on the Campus Cleanup Day on Sunday April 26th. The time is still 10 AM - 2 PM, and after that we are going to have a small festival on OPERS east field to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our campus. We will have various activities including a rock wall and designing t-shirts. If you participate you’ll get a really pretty drawstring bag with goodies in it.
Tamra: This Friday Oakes and Eight is having Drag Ball at the OLC and it will be from 9 PM - 12 AM.

Shub: Saturday April 11th from 1-4 PM C9 and C10 will be having the Hope International Music Festival. There will be light music and an interactive art project and chalk art. There will be regional food and y’all should come out.

Justin: Nine out of ten colleges have appointed their elections commissioner, election packets are due April 17th 5 PM in the SUA office. Tomorrow is the budget committee meeting at 7 PM in the SUA office. We will be presenting the budget at that meeting and anyone can come and give their feedback on the budget. Students will soon be contacted for RSO funds and the deadline will be around next Wednesday. Last Friday the office of the governor invited the presidents and the external presidents to discuss the governor’s initiatives for the UC. I’d say it was a two way educational meeting and they haven’t had student input and we haven’t really communicated with government staff before and there’s a lot of back and forth about the governor’s plans for education and our ideas of how feasible those ideas are for students.

Louise: Most of the proposals are around a 3 year degree, and we mostly took an opposition stance to that and we believe that they should be working on that four year mark. We talked about online education and we told them how we think it should be like. It’s a back and forth about higher education which are talks about funding. If you have any questions or concerns you can relay that to us and the governor is visiting all the UCs and we are trying to get him to come here since we’re not on their list of campuses to visit. UCSA has kicked off its petition drive and we are collecting petitions for UC Consent campaign, it’s like the safe slugs program that we have for incoming students. The petitions are going around right now and we are trying to get 1200. For more information please contact me. Lobby Corps is starting again on Wednesdays at 8 PM. My office hours this week on Mondays 12:30-1:30 Wednesdays from 6-7 and by appointment at the SUA office.

Andrew: It’s great to be back!

Brad: My office hours are Wednesday 2-3:30 PM at McHenry lobby and also my office is out right now in the quarry plaza outreaching for a multitude of things. We are having students write down their thoughts of what they want SUA to do on the board. We have gotten some great suggestions but I know that with the budget coming up, it might be a good resource to see where the student body is at. This is a great way to outreach. Also with the logo competition, we got 7 submissions and we are planning on showing all 7 to the student body next Tuesday. We should have a discussion about what we are looking for in the new logo.

Serene: In the quarry there was environment California, this organization under CALPIRG and they are offering full time summer jobs and you’d be working on environmental campaigns and if you are interested please talk to me I have flyers and stickers.
Presentations:

Transportation Advisory Committee Parking Fees:

Justin: It has been brought to my attention that TAPS is going to have a parking fee increase.

Julie: We don’t oversee taps and we just make recommendations to taps. TAC itself we don’t vote on anything, that decision is still made by the chancellor and they do still take input from the students. Does anyone know that TAPS is really in debt right now? They are facing a 1.7 million deficit and this comes from transit. We have the student fee measure which funds the bus but it doesn’t fund the bus as much as the bus needs to be funded. Taps is charged 1.60 every time a student takes a city bus within campus instead of taking a loop. There is a transit section and a parking section. Parking is a different subdivision but parking has also been losing money and that is because we haven’t been increasing the parking permit fees. The daily rate is proposing up to 4 or 5 dollars a day for next year. It will continue to increase until 2017 so it will be $165 per quarter. The daily R permit will be $6 per day. Staff permit is right now $226.50 for A and B permits. The B permit will be going away next year. Next year it will be $238 and by 2017 it will be $259 per quarter. For next year the student permits will be going up by 9.9% and the next year it will be 5.33% and then the year about that will be 4.43%. The staff rate will go up by about 5%.

Justin: Can revenues from parking offset the transit deficit?

Julie: Revenues from parking are never going to create that much money. One of the things that the parking permit funds go to is mostly incentives to reduce the need to park on campus by promoting carpool. It goes to the bike shuttle program. There’s also a proposal for a $40 fee for the bike shuttle. This will also go to the operational budgets.

Serene: So the deficit is trying to be covered by students who don’t use the bus, but those who drive themselves to school?

Julie: The deficit is because of the budget. Parking is supposed to create revenue to pay for TAPS staff, bike shuttle, bike library, Zipride and Zimride. The cost of those is going up and the amount of people parking on campus is decreasing and we are the third cheapest UC to park at.

Serene: So you want less people to park and people to pay more?

Julie: Yes kind of, according to the state of California we can’t have free parking on campus. The something came down and they told us that they wanted us to have more sustainable ways of parking and carpooling but they did not give us the funds for that.

Brad: So parking is supposed to create revenue but it’s not because less students are parking on campus? If the solution is to increase the price of the permits, it just doesn’t seem like a solution and it seems like a bigger problem.
Julie: Parking is supposed to fund sustainable transportation efforts. Parking is going up every year. We have also been losing parking spacing on campus and we are charging staff and students they are going to start charging staff at the long marine lab. There is also some issue about having to build some new hay barn and that will cost taps some money too.

Seamus: So why hasn’t TAPS reintroduced a fee increase on the ballot?

Julie: They did kind of slightly hint that I should write the student fee referenda. It is an interesting thing and they haven’t increased the transit fee in a while. The metro has been charging us more. Almost every fee proposal for transit has been vetoed for several years. TAPS is not down to charge the students and they are trying to look for alternate solutions. They are also hoping to have an overflow R lot. Another major issue right now I that TAPS doesn’t own the overflow lot, we rent it and that’s another fee that we’re trying to supplement.

Adham: You have all these nice explanations for the fees, what is our purpose here?

Julie: I’m here to just take suggestions and opinions you all have because if there is overwhelming support from students for a new measure they will take that into consideration.

Andrew: I heard that there was planned new construction near the base of campus for parking, do you know anything about that?

Julie: The Hay Barn area will be for those who live near the CASFS farm.

Andrew: You also mentioned earlier that TAPS doesn’t own the parking lots?

Julie: Yes, TAPS pays rent to the university. They don’t get any funding from the university for building new lots.

Brad: Motion to extend five minutes.

Vanessa: Second.

Justin: Are there any objections? Seeing none, motion passes.

Simba: It’s a little confusing to me since we’re talking about increasing fees to help the bike shuttle, it seems like there’s no efforts to make up the huge deficit.

Julie: There’s not too much worry about the deficit because the loan that was taken out, and the things that we’ve been taking out loans for we are still paying back. So we had to take out a huge loan to pay that, but the deficit that we have right now is a loan from the university and it’s not like they’re telling us to pay it back right now.

Alexandra: Looking at the elections archive, they haven’t actually proposed an increase in fees since 2006 and so my feeling is that students see transportation as very necessary so I feel like if a fee was proposed that students would be for it.
Julie: Do you think that students would be okay if we were still getting the same thing but paying more for it? Another thing to consider is that students pay about $30/month for the Metro use and the staff faculty bus pass is $10/month.

Brad: I think that students use the metro buses a lot more.

Shub: My question is in terms of student use of the Metro and the loops do you know about the different fees for those?

Julie: TAPS thinks that the best method is to work on behavioral change instead of the actual fees, the problem with that is that people don’t care. There haven’t been any kinds of numbers of how many students use the loops and the metros.

Andrew: So TAPS is also thinking about raising the transit fee?

Julie: TAPS can’t do that unless the students vote on that. They are thinking of having an optional $40 fee for the bike shuttle since it’s free right now and students can purchase that on their own.

J Street U:

We are from J Street U, and this is a new organization on campus, we are a pro-Palestinian organization and we started this chapter on our campus because we feel that this conversation is very polarized on this campus and it is only talked about it in terms of a conflict. This quarter on May 28th we are bringing our district’s congressman to our school and this event will be framed around the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. We want to see how we can push him as voters on ensuring that occupation will end and both people will have the right to stay. We are reaching out to every organization on campus who may be affiliate with this conflict and we are trying to make this as neutral as possible. We have already reached out to the colleges and we have reached out to professors and departments to get support and be mediators and now we are reaching out to you all as a possible sponsor for funding or for the event. We want this be a diverse group where people feel welcomed and having a space for people in Santa Cruz to have a role in it. We are planning to have a funding request soon but we came here to have suggestions from you all and we thought this would be of interest to you all.

Michael: What format will this be for the event?

J Street U: We will have questions to guide the discussion but we will allow people to ask questions through writings.

Brad: College Nine and Ten did this event called Deconstructing Ferguson and they had multiple people on stage having a discussion. Have you all thought about that format? I thought it was a great opportunity to have students hear different opinions and perspectives. That is something that we can talk more about. The only concern is that we don’t want it to be a debate because it is
so often a debate. We don’t want it to have a tense space and we want this to be discussion based. Our stance on this is more of a political take and we are asking him what the stance is like on Capitol Hill.

Art: Are you still planning this?

J Street U: Currently we have a timeline of what we’re going to be doing and we have gone to a couple of colleges. We have met with several staff and we are planning on meeting with more people and this is booked at the Kresge Town Hall.

Brad: **Move to table the USSA presentation after Kresge Pride Funding Request.**

Serene: **Second.**

Justin: Are there any objections? Seeing none, **motion passes.**

**Funding Requests:**

**Kresge Pride:**

This is our 10th anniversary of pride. Normally we have two parts which is the march and that goes around the campus, and then we have we have a small festival afterwards. This is to raise awareness for the queer/ally community. This is going to be a great year too because of what happened in Kresge College recently and it would be great to show our support. For an event like this you need a lot of advertising and we try to be sustainable as possible. We advertise in the dining halls and TAPS. Another huge way of advertising is through our T-shirts and it is great to show unity and the love that we have for this community. Along with these sponsors, they do go on the back of our t-shirts. We are very sustainable with this event and we use bioware. We have volunteers working the garbage area and making sure that things are getting composted. We are asking for **$4500** from SUA. We are also asking from all the college governments. We are also going to Queer Student Union and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Dean of Students.

Ray: **Motion to take up the USSA presentation.**

Vanessa: **Second.**

Justin: Are there any objections? Seeing none, **motion passes.**

**Presentations:**

**USSA LegCon Reportback**

Louise: We were able to go to the 46th Grass Roots Legislative Convention. It was held on the weekend of spring break.
Art: You might have seen some information that was passed around about Congress when they proposed their ideas for how to spend their money this upcoming year. They proposed a good number of changes to student aid. The republican house has proposed some major cuts to financial aid. Much of the aid we receive is from the Pell Grant. Some changes that they want to do is cutting mandatory Pell grant spending by 90 billion. Right now 9 million students rely on the Pell Grant and the average amount they receive is about $3500. They also want to cut the subsidized direct loan program, which is when you have a grace period to pay off your loans. If this program is cut, interest rates will double until you pay off your loans. Most people don’t pay off their loans until they are in their mid-30s.

Louise: If they pass the budget over summer, it will come into effect for the new school year.

Art: They also want to get rid of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which lets people with a public sector job qualify for loan forgiveness after 10 years of service and on time payments. Another thing is that they want to roll back the expansion of income based repayment, leaving graduates and people with students debt having to pay more a month, and thus cutting 16.3 billion. They also want to freeze the Pell Grant Award for the next 10 years. 45% of our undergraduates rely on the Pell Grant. 56% of our undergraduate population receive federal student loans. This is for a year. With the changes being proposed we would like to see the Pell Grant funding mandatory, we want to increase the maximum Pell Grant award, and reinstitute year round Pell Grants. We also want to expand Pell access to more students. The way to do this is to stop subsidizing for-profit colleges and redirect student loan profits when we pay interest on student loans, that goes to the department of education to pay off the national deficit. Over the last weekend we were able to spend time in DC and go to a protest rally and Senator Bernie Sanders was there to speak. What he said was really moving and I recommend you all to watch the video on Youtube. Students put their bodies on the line and used this as a symbolic gesture and to show that these cuts will really hurt students. UC Santa Cruz is now eligible to be a Hispanic serving institute which means that the university is able to apply for federal grants to help provide programs of sorts that target minority students. We are trying to create resources for students for now and for the future. Finally Lobby Corp is meeting on Wednesdays at 8 PM at the SUA office. We already have a planned visit on the first week of May.

Louise: We were able to make a lot of visits and I was able to meet with my congressman from home, and there were some congress people that simply didn’t meet with us. We put a lot of time into these meetings and there were some people who were simply like they don’t have time to meet with us.

Ray: I’m from Carlsbad and our congressman is Darryl Issa, the first time I got shut down and the second time it was a schedule visit and that everyone was busy. A lot of times they will shut you down but you have to keep trying. Our office is going to keep reaching out to congressional districts and we will be trying to facilitate events to call the congressmen and write letters to them. It helps in the budget negotiation to see an overwhelming support from their constituents.
Most of these ideas have already passed but the numbers haven’t been decided. It is going to be a huge discussion and many things were cut in this budget, and this is the time to mobilize.

Andrew: **Move to extend time by 2 minutes.**

Brad: **Second.**

Justin: Are there any objections? Seeing none, **motion passes.**

Andrew: You mentioned Diane Feinstein, do you know anything about their position on this and Barbara Boxer?

Art: They seem to be very in support.

Ray: Barbara is very on board with this and they were even asking us what else they could do for us.

Louise: Even if all the democrats voted no, the budget would still pass, this needs to be a bipartisan vote.

Simba: **Motion to extend time by 2 minutes.**

Daniel: **Second.**

Justin: Are there any objections? Seeing none, **motion passes.**

Simba: It said they want to cut the Pell Grant by 90 billion but they want to freeze the Pell Grant Award for 10 years? Could you clarify that?

Louise: They can cut how much is funded but they can still give a maximum award. So, people can still get the maximum amount but less people can get it.

Andrew: I would just recommend you all to vote and tell your friends to vote in midterm elections.

**Closing Remarks from Presiding Officer:**

Justin: Budget committee meeting at 7 tomorrow in the SUA office. RSO funding calls will be sent out soon. Election packets are due April 17th at 5 PM in the SUA office.