



# Student Union Assembly Meeting Agenda

SUA Mailstop: SOAR, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz CA 95064 • P: 831.459.4838  
suaparli@ucsc.edu • sua.ucsc.edu

## General Meeting of the Student Union Assembly

*Fall Quarter 2021, Meeting of October 26th, 2021*

*7:30pm via Zoom Teleconference Services*

*To submit requests for future agenda items, email the Parliamentarian at [suaparli@ucsc.edu](mailto:suaparli@ucsc.edu).*

### Electronic Meeting Access

*Register at [bit.ly/SUA21\\_22](https://bit.ly/SUA21_22)*

*[Opt-In for the SUA mailing list](#)*

### Governing Documents

*[Constitution](#)*

*[Bylaws](#)*

*[Continuity Action Plan 2021 Extension](#)*

### Statement on Transparency and Legal Alignment

In accordance with the SUA Constitution, Bylaws, and the California Ralph M. Brown Act, all meetings of the Student Union Assembly are recorded by the SUA Recording Clerk and posted on the SUA Website. Additionally, a copy of this agenda is made available for review no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the agenda, please contact SUA Parliamentarian Anna Romstad at [suaparli@ucsc.edu](mailto:suaparli@ucsc.edu)

### Current Roster of the SUA Voting Members

*Effective October 26th, 2021*

#### **Officers of the Student Union Assembly**

*President of the Student Union Assembly*

*SUA Vice President of Internal Affairs*

*SUA Vice President of External Affairs*

*SUA Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion*

*SUA Vice President of Academic Affairs*

*SUA Vice President of Student Life*

*Shivika Sivakumar (P)*

*Kayla Gomez (P)*

*Rojina Bozorgina (P)*

*Maria Dolores Castillo (P)*

*Dora Rasch*

*Jimmy Gomez (A)*

#### **Elected Representatives of the Student Union Assembly**

*Cowell College Elected Representative*

*Stevenson College Elected Representative*

*Crown College Elected Representative*

*Merrill College Elected Representative*

*Porter College Elected Representative*

*Kresge College Elected Representative*

*Oakes College Elected Representative*

*Alejandra Vaca (P)*

*Ciara McDavis (A)*

*Daniel Halpern-DeVries (P)*

*Mitra Zarinebaf (P)*

*Vacant*

*Brent Insua (P)*

*Jose Marquez Cuevas (P)*

<i>Rachel Carson College Elected Representative</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>College Nine Elected Representative</i>	<i>Cody Haugh (P)</i>
<i>College Ten Elected Representative</i>	<i>Cheru Robinson (P)</i>

**Appointed Representatives of the Big Five Student Organizations**

*None Appointed*

**Appointed Representatives of the Five Selected Student Organizations**

<i>Slug Model United Nations (SlugMUN)</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Jewish Student Union</i>	<i>Louis Adler (P)</i>
<i>Student-Parent Organization (SPO)</i>	<i>Erika Jackson (P)</i>

**Appointed Representatives of the College Student Governments**

<i>Cowell Senate Appointed Representatives</i>	<i>Andrew Kato (A) and Bradley Grace (A)</i>
<i>Stevenson Council Appointed Representatives</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Crown Senate Appointed Representatives</i>	<i>Caty Otero (A) and Michael Zhou (P)</i>
<i>Merrill Government Appointed Representatives</i>	<i>Theresa Bostic (P) and Henry Sadler (A)</i>
<i>Porter Senate Appointed Representatives</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Kresge Parliament Appointed Representatives</i>	<i>Jesus Najera (A), Vacant</i>
<i>Oakes Senate Appointed Representatives</i>	<i>Jose Gomez (P) and Miguel Salcedo (P)</i>
<i>RCC Council Appointed Representatives</i>	<i>Piper Vernon-Clay (P), Vacant</i>
<i>C9 Senate Appointed Representatives</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>C10 Senate Appointed Representatives</i>	<i>Ray Diaz (P), Vacant</i>

**Calculation of Quorum for Meetings of the Student Union Assembly**

In accordance with the SUA Constitution, Article II, Section D.1-2, quorum is established as the minimum number of representatives who are required to be physically present at the start of the meeting in order for business to be conducted. Quorum is defined as ‘half plus one’ of the voting membership.

For this meeting, the threshold for a quorum is set as follows:

<i>Current Members:</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Half (Rounded Up):</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Plus One:</i>	<i>14</i>
<b>Quorum Threshold:</b>	<b>14</b>

The SUA Parliamentarian shall assess if a quorum is present before calling the meeting to order.

# Order of the Meeting

## 7:30PM Call to Order

**Meeting called to order at 7:32pm.**

## 7:30 - 7:45 Introduction from BSU

Allocated Time: 15 minutes

Primary Speaker(s): Xaul Starr

Supplement:

**Xaul:** I'm presenting on behalf of BSU. This year I'm BSU president so I'm the spokesperson. If you don't know what BSU is, it is the Black Student Union on campus. We're basically a student facilitated organization under SOMECA, where we mobilize black students on campus and provide basically the black community on campus with a safe and educational and healing space. That's mostly our mission and so we host different events on campus We have general body meetings basically every Thursday at 7:00 if y'all are interested in that look at our Instagram. Or you can email us to join the emailing list on our Instagram. Our email list is mostly where we communicate. So it's basically just a space for black students to kind of just be themselves since we don't really have a space. Its really hard to kind of be yourself at a PWU which if you all know where that is primarily white university. I think this year were around 3 to 4%. Which if you think about it at a 20,000 or 17,000 student school that's around one to two thousand. So, you don't see a lot of black students in all of the classes. So it's really hard to find community and so we kind of like create our own community.

This year we're doing hybrid meetings so the meetings on Thursdays at seven will be in the Redwood lounge in person, but it will also be on zoom. Right now, if you want to book a space there's a maximum of 25 people so it's kind of a first come first serve basis. If you show up before the 25 then you're in and then you're allowed to be in the space if not, then you're going to have to join on zoom.

I will say that we're going to have open and closed meetings this year. So closed meetings are meetings just for the black community and open meetings meaning for all folks that means non-black folks as well can join us just because we need our own space sometimes.

## 7:45 - 9:15 Anti-Blackness Training

Allocated Time: 1.5 hours

Primary Speaker(s): Salih Muhammad, UCSA Organizing Director

Supplement:

**Salih:** Training does not work if we are not honest and communicative with ourselves and our peers. It is not in our political climate to say you are anti-black, so we may not perceive ourselves and others as such. However, people may still do things that can be anti-black both in themselves and by the impact they have. All students but especially those in this space who may see themselves in a managerial position in the future where their decisions and actions may have a large impact on people, especially black people. This is a safe space where we can be honest in order to confront what we may be ignoring.

Antiblackness training is both necessary and important because we need to confront biases and behaviors that we may be unaware of until its brought to light. It's also important because anti blackness is harmful especially to black students and its important as students and as people that we do our part to minimize that harm.

It is important to call out antiblackness within the spaces we are a part of and not just the spaces we are not a part of. It's easy to point the finger and other people or groups but it's important for us to get out of our comfort zone and call out the behaviors of those around us and ourselves and discuss them and why they are harmful and how we can change them. Avoiding the conversation is just as detrimental as the antiblackness itself.

The main thing I'd like to offer is that when we drop the notion that race is not real what we often are unintentionally erasing the racialized histories of people. In our action of what it means to be human and what it has meant to be humans for at least for the last one to 2000 years to be human has often been equated to being white. So, we say the race is not real we're often erasing racialized histories and supplanting that with a sterile ocean of humanity. That is often very much so connected and identify what it means to be the right race. This definition from Doctor Wade, who was one of the founders of the association of black psychologists, race is a social biological construct that situates human value worth in placement within the global society by using white as the paradigm.

Many black people are affected daily by these ideals that whiteness is better. Extent of the gap between where black people are and where power is centralized in this country anti blackness is about dispossession this is one of the reasons that in America even though we are more than 100 years up out of slavery black people have not made partly any economic progress when it comes to wealth development inside the United States of America black people on something like less than 1% of wealth inside the United States.

Racism is not about prejudice racism is about power. Combatting racism is America has involved educating and movements against racism however it hasn't really worked. Society has made a choice that in order to solve racism we need to talk about it. However functionally and practically racism is not

about prejudice. When we talk about antiblackness and racism, we need to include the conversation about power. It is about the disproportionate distribution of power. Many of the decision maker and policy makers that have the power to affect the lives of people of color are not people of color. We would be more successful if we not only tried to change the minds and opinions of those in power but rather making power more equitably distribution.

Institutional racism are overt ways not easily identifiable. We can't point at it as easily, but we know according to the data there are these institutional impacts of antiblack behaviors. However, we also have covert and overt anti-black racism. Not just in the institutional sense but also personal sense. Most of us as an individual have both covert and overt ways that we operate antiblack behaviors. Covert ways of antiblack behaviors might be for example it's time for a study group and most of us avoid the black folks in the class or covert ways of anti-blackness might mean we throw a party and most of us don't invite the black folks to the party. I'm suggesting to us that we all tend to maintain these things internally in both covert and overt ways which we might assume for example that black students are not willing to engage with student government. We might assume for example that I can't have conversations with black students around certain things, so these are covert ways we operate these in ourselves. We also have our intra communal mechanisms of anti-blackness within communities. Even student of color communities we had these varying ways that anti blackness becomes relevant and applicable.

One is the maintenance of traditions rooted in anti-blackness and these are the firstly cultural traditions languages and norms that we have in our communities. Relationship to black people often are belittles and justifies black mistreatment. In a student government context these are ways in which our student governments may have policies that make them inaccessible to black students. Our student governments may have policies that make them spaces and places where black people or black students are unable to access the power.

Language we use and the ways we address and talk about black students and students of color is something that we see every day but may not be mindful of. When we have the power to make decisions, we often exclude black students from that decision making process. We typically may assume what black students are willing to do or where they might want to get involved. People with power get to make the decisions on what matters and what is important. However oppressed groups must work to negotiate in order to gain and maintain said power.

Black students must create their own spaces. It is important to reach out to black students and help to create and support safe places for black students. Be honest and address the antiblackness that we see on campus and in our spaces, especially student governments.

**Jose:** Can you elaborate on what you mean by disenfranchising language?

**Salih:** Language that has been historically used to degrade black people.

**Erika:** Is there a UC student government that does these things well?

**Salih:** No there isn't and their likely won't be, because there's no benefits doing it doing so.

### **9:15- 9:25     Roll Call of the Voting Members**

### **9:25 - 9:28     Approval of This Week's Agenda**

**Motion to Approve the Agenda:** Daniel

**Second:** Louis

**Motion passes unanimously**

### **9:28 - 9:30     Approval of the Previous Meeting's Minutes**

- The SUA is in the process of hiring a Recording Clerk for the 2021-2022 academic year.

### **9:30 - 9:35     Announcements and Public Comments**

*Note: You should now send your announcements in advance to [suaparli@ucsc.edu](mailto:suaparli@ucsc.edu) so that they can be included in this agenda. (Compliance w/ SUA Bylaws C.8.A.II)*

- **Message from Bijan Ashtiani-Eisemann:** The Climate Walkout Strike, which SUA recently endorsed, is this Friday, 10/29! UCSC participants can meet at the Baytree Store at noon, or converge at Wells Fargo at 2:00. Please take a minute to fill out this October 29th Climate Walkout Strike [Google Form](#) if you are interested in coming to the event/signing up for our email list. Please fill out this [form](#) to sign up for tabling or to speak at the strike. We hope to see you there! [Flyer 1](#), [Flyer 2](#)
- **Rojina:** Student Opportunity via EVP Office - [UCOP Equity in Mental Health Plan Review Group](#)

**Rojina:** I have received a cool opportunity from the UC office of the president for students to be part of their review group for the equity and mental health plan. It is a formal process confusing so if you're interested in applying, please feel free to reach out to me. I'd be happy to go over the application with you and refer you on my end to the folks at UCOP. I believe they're asking for at least one student from every campus. I highly recommend applying if you especially if you have experience serving on review groups or committees like this but also if you don't and want to learn about that process. Although it does help if you've served in a campus specific administrative or academic

committee before since the UC office of the president is a system wide space, it can be slightly intimidating but if you are interested or have any questions or want to learn more I'm here. There's more information about the specific requirements for the position on that flyer that I linked so please look at that it lays out all the details and again I'd be happy to help folks with their applications.

- **Message from the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement:** The [UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement](#) is pleased to share the application for the 2022 [Valuing Open and Inclusive Conversation and Engagement \(VOICE\) Initiative](#). VOICE provides funding for UC students, staff, and faculty who are interested in conducting research or coordinating programs that further the Center's mission of exploring how the fundamental democratic and academic principles of free speech and civic engagement enrich the discovery and transmission of knowledge in higher education. [View Full Message](#)
- **Daniel:** The finalist candidates for the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Success position will be visiting campus starting on November 4th. Each candidate will have a general zoom town hall as well as an open forum for students that will be both in person and streamed over zoom. Feedback from people who go to these events is valuable, and every piece of candidate feedback will be read by the search advisory committee and the Chancellor. [Here is a link](#) to the page with information about the candidates visit. If you have any questions please reach out to me as I am acting as the SUA representative on the search advisory committee at [drhalper@ucsc.edu](mailto:drhalper@ucsc.edu). Thank you!
- **Shivika:** SUA is opening up internship applications for Recording Clerk, Treasurer, and Multimedia Manager positions. If interested, please look out for a campus-wide email coming out soon and take a look at [bit.ly/opinternships](http://bit.ly/opinternships) in the meantime. Thank you!
  - Unfortunately our treasurer was offered a position in his desired field and will be unable to continue working on the SUA.
- **Anna:** Please join [SUA Slack!](#) This is a fast and easy way to get announcements, and to contact your fellow SUA members.
- **Anna:** Do you know any Student Organizations whose voice should be heard in SUA? Encourage them to [apply for voting membership!](#) We have 2 student organization voting seats currently open.
- **Anna:** Interested in being the next Parliamentarian? [Applications](#) are open through November 13th! The term for this position will be December 13th, 2021 - June 30th, 2022. Please reach out to me with absolutely any questions- I am happy to chat with you about the job and show you how I do things!

## 9:35 - 10:05 Proposed Amendment to SUA Elections Bylaws

Allocated Time: 30 minutes

Primary Speaker(s): Brent

Supplement: [Bylaws](#)

**Brent:** As to why these changes are being brought up. Last spring, I was your SUA elections commissioner and during that time there were many challenges and a lot of these challenges were codified within the SUA bylaws. Meaning that I couldn't change them unless the SUA had to take two weeks to consider those changes. During the elections timeline, I didn't have enough time to make those changes as the previous spring has shown. We did create an ad hoc committee to sort of address these changes, but those changes were far too late, and I don't want the repeat of it happening again. So towards the end of my report that I gave to SUA last year, I did have some recommendations. My first recommendation was hiring the SUA election commissioner/associate elections commissioner at the end of the fall quarter. This is kind of a lofty goal considering that we are in our fifth week, but I think that it's completely doable because the timeline for our elections must be longer. My third relevant suggestion was just a complete revision and overhaul. Now the changes that I'm presenting today are not a complete overhaul but it's a targeted revision throughout the bylaws that are supposed to free up the sort of nuances that the elections commissioner had to go through. One bylaw contradicted another, so I was dealing in a very gray area, specifically where Write-In candidates stood at the time of this writing. I couldn't investigate issues that were brought up to me anonymously I had to only investigate formal issues that were submitted through an intake form and many people did not feel comfortable with that, so these changes as reflected are going to address that.

Previously if a candidate wanted to come be considered as a candidate they would have to submit all these documents by a deadline, that's when the college would lose their right. Instead I've changed it so that once the Commission begins its responsibilities and duties then that's when colleges would lose their right. Having one deadline attached to another just brought too many inconsistencies and if I extended the right for colleges to appoint a commissioner I would have to extend the deadline as well. Then I just added that the SUA elections commissioner will have the discretion to officially convene the Commission and that would be like realistically the elections commissioner will email all the colleges notifying them that the Commission has officially convened.

Next is the Commission shall reserve the right to enact rules and regulations during the elections process which preserve fit, free, fair, and open elections. Essentially, it's approval of non-codified rules. Requiring a notification to the SUA during the elections process, previously

we can't really do this although there has been issues when I served that I had to implement new rules in order for the elections process to go as fair as possible, so I added that just in case.

Then the SUA may overturn such rules with two thirds majority vote. Previously it was majority. One of the responsibilities of SUA elections commissioner is to verify the election results via the elections Commission. So each college appointee and elections commissioner will vote on the election results. Previously it was certified by the president. However if the president had a vested interest in not certifying the results that would be a conflict of interest. So instead I've moved that responsibility onto the SUA parliamentarian who is the sort of neutral arbiter in this case.

I've expanded some of the powers of the elections commissioner. The main one being conducting proactive investigation into candidates who are unofficially reported to the attention of the SUA elections commissioner. In this case if someone came up to me and just started talking to me about an issue it would be sort of like a mandated reporter type of situation where I would have to go look into this. Lots of times, especially during elections, there cannot be a reactive process because the elections timeline is extremely short and having it as a reactive process would take up precious time. So instead the power given to the elections commissioner will be more proactive in helping finish these investigations a lot quicker.

Next, I saw it more as a barrier for candidates, in order to qualify for candidacy the previous requirement was that students had to have a 2.5 GPA and I felt like that's more of a barrier to low income students who tend to have lower GPA's so I lowered the GPA to the GPA minimum 2.0.

The previous candidate statement requirement had a cap of 200 words. I felt like that wasn't enough to convey a platform and there was not a lot of a difference between candidates. So by giving more words to candidates under candidate statements students can look for differences in their choices and it allows for candidates to explain their platform more comprehensively.

Write-Ins were a huge issue during my time. We didn't really have a procedure on where Write-Ins stood. As of right now, write-ins are really in a gray area. I'm proposing that all write-ins are subject to SUA elections code university regulations/policy and the SUA elections commission's rules and actions. Write-ins cannot campaign and are not eligible for financial reimbursement. Write-ins are meant for voters not necessarily for candidates. That means if voters feel a particular way they will be able to write in someone who they believe will do a better job than the candidates on the ballot. Write-ins are not considered candidates.

The right to campaign with equal access and equal opportunity as candidates running for the same elected position. So, for example Anna if I can use you in an example if we both ran for sea president and you wanted to go give a presentation or four if you wanted to go get an endorsement from a student organization I have the same equal I should have the same equal access and opportunity to make my presentation to that student organization as well

Canadidate responsibilities, this is just to highlight that the deadline set by the elections commissioner this gives me freedom to set a deadline sort of whenever if it's within a timely manner that doesn't put the burden so much time at candidates.

**Daniel:** What happens if the SUA does not agree by three fourths vote to appoint somebody?

**Brent:** If the SUA doesn't do that then realistically someone will step in

**David:** What was the motivation behind the changes in the Write-ins section? Why are they not considered candidates?

**Anna:** Something that happened last year is an individual expressed intention that they had not done the paperwork, but that they were going to go to government faces and try to encourage people to write them in. They ended up not going through with that which solved the problem itself but we had a lot of questions about how do we hold this individual to certain elections rules. What kind of privileges do they get in terms of going to the official SUA debate? There were a lot of gray areas regarding that so if you don't do paperwork and get the signatures for candidacy that you're not a candidate you don't get to do any of those things makes it very clear.

**\*questions and clarifications regarding donations and fair elections\***

**Brent:** Donations over \$20 must be recorded, fair elections are a priority on campus.

**Rojina:** The SUA office resources are available to all students, so if the incumbent happens to be in SUA they might be more knowledgeable but they are available to all students. I am also a bit worried about the language. Generally the more deadlines we add the better, in order to keep colleges accountable for appointing and to help with falling behind with appointments and hiring.

**Shivika:** I understand the policies and regulations however for those who are just relying on you know just people writing in their names that kind of defeats the purpose of write-in because no one knows about them. I would also consider rewording the availability of office space and the use of those supplies. I also agree with implementing some sort of deadline for college governments.

**Brent:** Candidates work in order to get on the ballot that write-in candidates do not. It sort of defeats the purpose of going through the process to become a candidate if you get all the same benefits regardless.

**Anna:** Clarification about write-ins and maybe this is something that we should change the language, but that very first line as it's written means that write-in is not a person. A write-in is a place on the ballot where a student can write in a name of someone that they think should be in that position so the idea of allowing write-in is for the benefit of the not for the benefit of the person running for the position

## **10:05 PM**    **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

**Rojina:** Our EVP offices collecting testimonials from students who are Pell Grant recipients so if anyone here has received the federal Pell Grant or knows anyone that has please tell them to reach out to me so we can and hopefully get that Pell Grant increased that would be really awesome thank you so much.

**Shivika:** just a reminder again there's this strike this Friday at 12:00 PM at Quarry please show up using your voice and support all the organizers who've been working really hard I'm also following up on that my office is starting to look into as well as like work with sustainability office and specifically working on environment-related projects and like zero waste campaign etc. so if any of y'all are interested in getting involved please reach out to us you can slack me email me any of that I think that's about it and also good luck on midterms and thank you all so much for staying back I know it's quite late this time but I appreciate all the engagement

**Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm**