



Student Union Assembly (SUA), Office of the Commissioner of Academic Affairs

1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064
Student Union Assembly 2nd floor, c/o Soar

28 August 2013

Chair S. Umer,

Under my duties as Commissioner of Academic Affairs of the Student Union Assembly and Article III, Section A of the SUA Constitution, I present my monthly report and evaluation for the month of August 2013 to the Assembly. I will outline all of my events, logistical planning, activities and constructive criticism with areas of improvement in hopes of providing a detailed account in this month's report

Goals and projected timeline for the month of August for the 2013 pay period of August 4 – 31.

Goal	Proposed Timeline	Actual Timeline/Progress
UCSA Congress [Planning, Attendance and Travel]	12 August 2013	12 August 2013
Library Meetings [Communication, Meeting, and Follow up]	August - November 2013	30 August 2013
Trainings [Low Ropes]	19 – 26 August 2013	August 2013 (tbc)
Mental Health Proposal [Initial communication and planning]	Fall 2013 – Winter 2014	(tbc)
Amendment/Fall Elections [feedback, and next steps meetings]	November 2013	29 August 2013



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Completed projects, campaigns, events or activities:

- I aided the IVC, OD, and EVC in the planning and organising of the 2013 UCSA Congress delegation hosted by UC Santa Barbara in Irvine. I then attended the Congress as a delegation leader. During the Congress, I attended the workshops and open spaces regarding Next Steps for Immigration Reform, Sexual Assault Awareness, Mental Health Facilities and Accessibility, An Overview of the UC Budget and Online Education. I also attended the final Board of Directors meeting where Kareem Aref was elected the new UCSA President, Safeena Mecklai as Board Chair, Lewis Luartz as Secretary & Finance Officer and Vanessa Garcia as University Affairs Chair. We also selected three new campaigns for UCSA as a whole to take on in addition to Fund Our Future. These campaigns are: IGNITE (Prison reform & Increasing Support for Higher Education), California Oil Severance Tax and the Fossil Free UC Coalition. The agenda for UCSA Congress is attached.
- After meeting with students from across the UC system regarding the state and accessibility of mental health services at the different campuses, we decided to form an action committee and went over the available services, constituents, goals, and potential programs. We decided to create a facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/542386385826449/>) for continued communication and planning campaigns and weekly actions across the UCs. Was requested to meet with a student and the Organising Director to plan out such campaigns as well as any requests to administration. This meeting has not been scheduled, but communication is ongoing.
- I emailed and requested a meeting with Elizabeth Cowell, interim University Librarian, to discuss the status of the Library and the potential for a campaign to have a 24/5 hours pilot program for the Library and what that would cost, where it would occur, and how long it would take to take effect. The meeting in mid-August was a general meeting regarding the state and potential for such a campaign. On August 30th we are having a follow up meeting to discuss the costs and feasibility of the campaign.
- There were budget and leadership trainings throughout the week of August 19th, but I was only able to attend one due to sickness. I attended the team building exercise with the Dean of Students Alma Sifuentes and Lucy Rojas. As I was not in the meeting when the first training occurred, I went through all the paperwork and took notes and any questions I still have, I will ask the next time I have the chance to.
- All of my four (4) interns have been submitted to the Chair and Director of SOAR, and they should be up on the the Employee Request system on September 9th, with the possibility of both work study and non-work study positions.
- I have also been requested to meet with the IVC and a representative from the Student Environmental Centre to discuss the possibility of the SUA having an officer position



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dedicated to Sustainability. This would potentially be included in the Constitutional Amendment, which would be running in a special election this fall. The meeting is scheduled for later this week and the results and next steps will be included in the next month report.

Total Number of Hours Worked: 102 hours

August Review and Areas of Improvement:

- After going to UCSA Congress, I noticed that we had a large delegation, but they were not being completely engaged and participating in the workshops and activities at the conference. The format for reporting back and bringing back the information from the conference to the students here on campus needs to be more clearly defined and articulated to the delegates that are chosen. A possibility is to have the delegates have a meeting where all the responsibilities are stated and each delegate can have the opportunity to decide if they can fulfill those responsibilities.
- We also need to focus on remembering that comparing the offices or scaling them based on importance is not conducive to getting things done and improving the campus for our fellow students. A lot more could be done more effectively and efficiently if we work as a team and maintain communication.
- Last month I was reviewing the projected budget for the current year and found some discrepancies. I feel like the structure of our budget is a bit counter-intuitive and needs to be amended to be more easily understood by the general student body, who may not have extensive knowledge of how the SUA operates. By doing a change like this we can have another way to show the officer group's dedication to fiscal transparency.
- This last review is upon myself. I need to make sure I have a general idea of the tasks and research I need to do for a given project and have an accurate projected timeline for those. This is especially important since I found myself trying to find a balance between my duties here as Commissioner of Academic Affairs and my own academics. I am trying to figure out the best way to go about this improvement in myself so that stress and work don't result in sickness time after time. Although this is a goal and review of an area not directly affiliated with my office, it definitely will reflect on my effectiveness and I will continue this review.

In conclusion, I provide this summarised account of my monthly report for August 2013. Any feedback, criticisms and/or questions that you may have is welcome and please feel free to contact me.

Vanessa Estelí Morales

Commissioner of Academic Affairs, Student Union Assembly



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Schedule
UCSA CONGRESS 2013 - UC IRVINE

Thu, Aug 8, 13		Notes
8:00 am – 11:00 am	Registration/ACTION (Registration Area, Ballroom DE)	Arrival: 9a
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Welcome (Ballroom DE)	
11:30 am -12:30 pm	Conference Overview (Ballroom DE)	
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	LUNCH (Ballroom DE)	Delegation Check-in
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Congress Clinic (Breakout Rooms)	
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Workshop Session I (Breakout Rooms)	
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Workshop Session II (Breakout Rooms)	
5:45 pm – 6:00 pm	Closing (Ballroom DE)	
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	DINNER (on own)	Delegation Check-in & Keys
6:00 pm – 12:00 am	UCSA BOD Meeting & Nominations (Boardroom)	
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Movies! (Ballroom DE)	
Fri, Aug 9, 13		
8:00 am – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST (Ballroom DE)	
9:00 am – 9:30 am	ACTION (Ballroom DE)	
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Opening (Ballroom DE)	
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Workshop Session III (Breakout Rooms)	
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Workshop Session IV (Breakout Rooms)	
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	LUNCH (Ballroom DE)	
1:30 pm – 2:00pm	Break	Delegation Check-in
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Open Space Marketplace (Ballroom DE, Boardroom)	
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Open Space Sessions (Ballroom DE, Boardroom)	
6:00 pm -7:00 pm	Closing (Ballroom DE)	
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	DINNER (on own)	
8:30 pm – 11:00 pm	Karaoke! (Ballroom DE)	
Sat, Aug 10, 13		
8:00 am – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST (Ballroom DE)	
9:00 am – 9:30 am	ACTION (Ballroom DE)	
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Opening/Open Space Marketplace (Ballroom DE)	
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Open Space Session (Ballroom DE, Boardroom)	
11:30am – Noon	Open Space Closing (Ballroom DE, Boardroom)	
Noon – 1:00 pm	LUNCH (Ballroom DE)	Delegation Check-in (be packed by the morning presentations)
1:00pm – 2:30 pm	Proposal/Poster Prep Ballroom DE, Boardroom)	
2:30 pm – 4:00pm	Poster Session (Ballroom DE, Boardroom)	
4:00 pm - 6:00pm	Proposed Campaign Presentations (Tuscany Ballroom, B)	
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	1st Round Voting (Tuscany Ballroom, Ballroom AD, Board)	
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Banquet & Celebration (Ballroom DE)	
10:00 pm – 2 am	Dance! (Tuscany Ballroom)	
Sun, Aug 11, 13		
8:00 am – 9:00 am	BREAKFAST (Ballroom DE)	
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Opening (Ballroom DE)	
10:00 am – 11:30 am	FINAL Campaign Presentations (Ballroom DE, Boardroom)	
11:30 pm – Noon	FINAL Voting (Ballroom DE, Boardroom)	
11:30 am – 4:30 pm	UCSA BOD Elections (Boardroom)	
Noon – 1:00 pm	LUNCH (Tuscany Ballroom and Tuscany Patio)	Delegation Check-in
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Announce Campaigns (Ballroom AD)	
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Campaign Planning (Ballroom AD)	
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Closing Session (Ballroom AD)	