



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

25 September 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 September 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 pay period of 2013 September 1 - 27.

Goal	Proposed Timeline	Actual Timeline/Progress
Library Meetings and Referenda Proposal	November 2013	September 11
Amendment/ Fall Elections	November 2013	tbc
Attend Trainings/ Events with RAs	September 2013	September 9 - 26
CAPS	September 2013 - January 2014	September 18, ongoing
Welcome Week	September 19 - 25	September 19 - September 28
Student Governments [Meet & Greets]	September 24 - ongoing	ongoing
SUA Budget	ongoing	September 18
Interns	October 15	Request to close 3 positions in late september/early october



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Completed Projects, Campaigns, Events, and/or Activities:

- SUA officers met with Chancellor Blumenthal and EVC Galloway to discuss the goals for the quarter. Spoke briefly on the following topics:

SOAR

- Organisation trainings
- increase the # of advisors, at least 1 greek-specific advisor
- expand the IGC and UCSC Greek life
- Events/Room space for organisations and student groups
- expand/increase peer advising hours
- staff capacity & have advising hours be more accessible to students
- Technology: new, more user-friendly website
- Business practises: earth/green friendly

These proposed changes to SOAR practises and organisation are meant to help improve its accessibility and efficiency for both student organisations and the SOAR staff.

Library services/referendum

- Referendum to expand the library space to 24/5 hours.
- staff costs:
 - 1–2 Library Assistant 3s with benefits included: about \$122,000 annually
- space costs for setup:
 - to set up security for the space including key card access would cost about \$75,000 in one time fees
 - the proposed space is the ground floor of S&E Library, not including the Cowell Room due to the staff there being students.
 - What's the timeline to prepare the space
- What would this mean for other campus services?
 - CSO escort service
 - transit

This fall, during special election we are proposing to run a referenda for a 2-3 year pilot program to have a library space open 24/5. The proposed space is the ground floor of S&E Library, not including the Cowell Room. In order to set up the space, it would cost about \$75,000 in one-time funds to make the doors key card access. This would be staffed by Library Assistant 3 position(s), costing about \$122,000 annually, including benefits for up to 2 LA3s.

Constitutional Amendment

- Renaming of the Undergraduate Student Association
 - the amendment strikes Article I, the USA, and reconstitutes the SUA as the official student government at UCSC, with all the students as members of the SUA. For all practical purposes, this is already hoe the campus and the SUA operate.
- Delegation of SUA duties
 - as of now, the SUA cannot delegate a portion of its duties or authority to any other body, unless specifically outlined as an exception in the constitution. This is particularly troublesome as it comes to elections. This passage allows the SUA to create committees or other bodies to address particular parts of the SUA's role by addressing them in the bylaws.
- Executive of the SUA
 - the executive will have the ability to make the day-to-day decisions to make the SUA as a whole operate more smoothly. This change is an attempt to codify the current practise of the officer-assembly relationship.
- Hold power
 - this creates a checked and balanced relationship between the executive and the voting membership. This hold shall require a 3/4 majority of the executive (5) to enact it and can be overturned. This power is available for a maximum of 2 weeks in which the issue/action must be brought back to the Assembly during a regularly scheduled meeting or by calling an emergency meeting for time-sensitive issues.



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- Officer title change
 - the change to a Presidential system shall give the executive more capacity to work on projects that benefit the students and not be held up by time delays in the assembly's meeting schedule. Traditionally the officers observe themselves as a non-hierarchical body, this will codify the relationship of the Commissioners as operational Vice Presidents and help the executive positions be more easily recognised by the students and administration of this and other campuses.
- Vice President of Internal Affairs
 - addition of the managerial tasks, which are currently performed by the Chair
- Vice President of Student Life
 - this position attempts to strengthen the SUA's on-campus presence and campaigns. This new position will work closely with Student Life related services and provide programming for the student body
- Parliamentarian of the SUA
 - selected from within the SUA at the end of each year and runs the Assembly meetings. Shall remain an impartial presiding officer
- Voting Membership of the SUA
 - the Amendment proposes the SUA voting membership to be comprised of 1 elected college representative, 2 appointed college representatives, and 10 organisation representatives. total of 40 members. Executives would act as ex-officios with the hold power.
- Constitutionally articulated staff
 - the job descriptions for the constitutionally articulated staff positions have been removed and put in the bylaws. this will allow the SUA to adjust the jobs more easily to best fit the needs of the current SUA. The Historian/Media Coordinator, Recording clerk, Treasurer, and Legislative Liaison are still constitutionally mandated and will be appointed by the executive and confirmed by the Assembly prior to the 4th (fourth) week of Fall Quarter
- Committee/Commission/Board Actions
 - the committees and commissions that are outlined in the bylaws of the SUA have instituted a policy that a 3/4 vote of the SUA overturns any prior decisions. This ensures that the SUA still has the ability to exercise all the powers that the constitution outlines as the duty of the SUA. For that reason, the Amendment articulates this point for all Committees, Commissions, Boards, Subcommittees, etc. However, due to the existence of the hold power, it is necessary to lower the threshold to a 2/3 vote so that in the instance of a hold, a 3/4 vote can overturn the hold and the action of the committee
- Finance Board
 - in an attempt to minimise the amount of time the Assembly deals with finance, both funding requests and internal funding allocation, the Finance Board shall take the lead on all financial issues, with oversight of the Assembly preserved. Each college shall be represented in the membership of the Board. (SOFA + budget transparency)
- Financial authority
 - the VPIA shall be in charge of all finance matters, as assigned by the Assembly and/or the President. The VPIA shall work with the Finance Board in all finance decisions.
- Constitutional Interpretation Commission
 - in an effort to keep the chair of the commission impartial and to allow the President to be an active member of the commission, the Amendment makes the SUA Parliamentarian the Chair of the Commission
- Constitutional Amendments
 - so that minor errors in the Constitution do not need to go through the difficult process of an Amendment, typographical and formatting errors can be proposed by the executive or voting member and approved by consensus of the Assembly. If consensus cannot be reached, a 2/3 vote can call for the Constitutional Interpretation Commission to fix the minor errors by consensus
- Vice President of Sustainability???? (still being considered)
- **All changes enacted by the Amendment will take effect in the 2014 Academic year (Spring 2014 elections), to allow for amendments to the bylaws and application details to be enacted/decided.**

The SUA Constitutional Amendment is intended to streamline the processes of the undergraduate student government and increase its fiscal transparency and visibility to the student body, administration, and other campuses.



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- Met with the University Librarian, Elizabeth Cowell, to continue to hash out the details and information for the fall referenda to fund for 24/5 library hours (Sunday -Thursday).
- Continued meetings with Lucy Rojas, Campus Elections Commissioner, to figure out the details for the Fall Special Elections Timeline.
- Met with Greg Careaga with IVC in regards to starting a Library Student Advisory Council (LSAC) and the possibility of a student representative from the SUA sitting on this. Proposed that the SUA Library Liaison, when hired, would sit on this council.
- Attended various welcome week events across campus, specifically at Merrill, with RAs and other officers.
- Met with Justin McClendon in regards to moving forward with increasing mental health awareness across the UC system, post UCSA congress, and working on it with CAPS and our home campus.
- SUA officers met with Lela from the Dean of Students' office to discuss a transition into a new system for budget recording. Switching to infoview soon
- Worked on ITLI reviews for online education proposals.
- Attended the Boardwalk Frolic and participated in the OPERS Fall Festival. Also SUA put on an Open House in the office and spoke briefly about our offices and answered questions from students. Also attended College 8 Senate's open house.
- CEP meetings
- Attended the Fall Farm Festival with the Chair and IVC.
- Participated in the Santa Cruz Good Neighbours Initiative block parties around the city with the Chair, Dean of Students, and EVC Galloway. IVC and EVC participated with the Chancellor. Spoke to residents, students and non-students, about issues that come up with students living in residential areas.

Total Number of Hours Worked: 146



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September Review & Areas of Improvement:

- September was particularly challenging in terms of scheduling because so much was happening at once. If we could have had better communication, we could have attended more events during welcome week and move-in. Problems ensued in scheduling because half of the officers were moving in at the same time as students were arriving and took up time we could have spent outreaching.
- It was also the first taste of balancing full academics and our positions since fall quarter started at the end of this pay period.
- I hope that everyone has a successful Fall Quarter!

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

Vanessa Estelí Morales
Commissioner of Academic Affairs, Student Union Assembly