

## Legislative Liaison Fall Quarter Report

### Complete Projects, Campaigns, Events or Activities:

#### August:

- During this month I was appointed Legislative Liaison by the EVC Tony Milgram. I attended the UCSA Summer Congress and the August BOD Meeting at Irvine. There, I check-ed in with delegation members, making sure they were being on task as delegates and answering any questions they might have about UCSA. I made sure to introduce as many delegation members as possible to the board members running for executive positions and then asked for their input when I made my vote as proxy.
- The campaigns chosen during this Congress included IGNITE, CMED, and FFUC. Both IGNITE and CMED seem to have a strong legislative focus. I plan to help put on an educational campaign on our campus about these bills. And to build an institutionalized lobby corp for UCSC.
- I participated in IGNITE legislative conference calls, hosted by the IGNITE campaign coalition. We discussed the IGNITE bills SB 649, AB 420, AB 218, and SCA 5.

#### September:

- During the September BOD meeting, the Leg Committee met for the first time of this year. We decided not to support either SB 105 or AB 84, which both addressed the federal mandate for prison over crowding. The overall message of both bills are insufficient in what students want. Though we liked the rehabilitation aspects of AB 84, it still routed a large amount of state funds into building new prison facilities (directly against the goals of IGNITE).
- I was also shared the LL binder that Amanda Buchanan (our outgoing Leg Director) made to provide resources for LL's and their lobby corps. There are many training documents and legislation references included in this binder. I will be spending the majority of the month reading through it and researching information about past UCSA supported bills, especially ones that will be reintroduced.
- The LL goals for this quarter include outreaching to students and having at least 10 lobby corp members by December. We also hope to conduct at least 1 lobby visit before the quarter ends, but since the legislature is soon to be out of session there are not too many issues that need immediate action. It was decided that the LL's should focus on building and training their lobby corps for fall quarter.
- Tony and I have set up weekly meetings for this quarter to help us plan events for the office and to pursue campaign goals. Some of the things that will be addressed this month are the resolutions in support of the 3 UCSA campaigns and also presenting the Napolitano Resolution to SUA.

#### October:

- Tony and I have had some meetings with administration to introduce our office and the campaigns we will be pursuing this year. Met with the outgoing Vice Chancellor of University Affairs and also the interim VCUA. We spoke with them about sending student representatives when they had meetings in Sacramento and DC. Administration has so far expressed their support in helping connect student leadership with the wider Santa Cruz community. We also spoke about the recently allocated 5 million dollars to resource centers for undocumented students and how that would look like on our campus consider UCSC has a significant AB 540 student population in relation to the systemwide demographic.

Additionally we spoke about institutionalizing voter registration practices for the coming year, hoping to have a record turn out for a mid-term election cycle.

- Interns for the EVC office are in the process of being hired. So far I have been Tony's main/only intern and so the office does not yet have people to specialize on in-depth EVC issues. I plan to work closely with all of the hired interns since LL work spans across the local, state, national levels.
- We have been meeting regularly with FFUC representative David Shugar. He has taken pinpoint on the UCSC campus for the campaign and has been working with the CSC.
- On 10/27 we hosted the UCSA delegation meeting to lay the ground work for how the campaigns will look like on our campus. I'm concerned about how to keep people engaged and accountable to these campaigns. I have no doubt that these students support the goals and ideas of these campaigns, but they are also students who are here to get an education. I found during this meeting that not all students are interested in organizing within institutionalized channels such as SUA, but are also interested in tackling the issues on a grass roots level. Members of the group expressed the need to bring the more abstract ideas of the campaign into clarity and focus on how they play out on our campus and effect students on an every day basis. I plan to keep in touch with students and provide any support I can in my capacity as LL.
- SOCC will be hosted at UCLA during Nov 15-17. A week of action is planned that following week from Nov. 18-21. It is critical to keep students engaged after a conference so we hope to have people turn out for this event.

#### November:

- At SOCC, we had our November UCSA BOD Meeting. We discussed a resolution between AFSCME and UCSA, updated the budget (with resolutions we need to pass). In UG, we heard proposals from both FFUC and CMED campaigns. During Leg Committee we met our new Leg Director Sean Connelly, his support will be crucial but he is still in the process of transitioning to the role. I have set up a meeting with Sean and hope to bring him to campus to meet with our lobby corp. During the break out we set the goal of having 2 lobby visits by the end of January.
- On 11/2-11/3 I sat on Tony's hiring committee and we interviewed/hired 4 new interns for the office. I am looking forward to working with these individuals and hopefully we can collaborate on events soon.
- We had our week of action from 11/18 to 11/21. Monday had our greatest turn out, over 150 students signed cards in support of the Fund the UC campaign, clearly financial aid is still a big issue to students. At night we hosted a Student Debt Workshop with about 20-25 students. On Tuesday we tabled in the Quarry to discuss Student Fee Legislation. That night at SUA our USSA President Max Love and staff Chirag Bhakta came and presented to the SUA on the state of higher education at the national level. On Thursday 10/21, we hosted a table at the Quarry Plaza and outside the 9/10 Dining Hall to talk to students about the Fossil Free UC campaign and asked them to sign our posters with reasons they want the Regents to divest from fossil fuels.
- During this month, the EVC office has also started planning events for next Quarter. We have a full schedule of student engagement coming up. Lobby core will have weekly meetings on Wednesdays around 8pm. A lobby core retreat is also planned for the first weekend of the quarter. I plan to have at least 2 in-district lobby visits in January, and possibly weekly lobby visits in February. The office is planning to host more education campaigns, teach-ins, etc to make students more informed and educated. I am looking forward to all the things we will accomplish.

### December:

- I have started to design training materials for lobby corp. The weekly lobby corp meetings for Winter Quarter have been mapped out in details, with topics and specific agenda items designed for each week. I plan to co-facilitate these meetings with Tony and also our National Affairs director when we hit national higher ed issues towards the end of January. I have been continually outreaching to students who have expressed interest in lobbying, and specifically asked them what their main concerns were. The responses I receive all involve a partial lack of information about the history of our campaigns and of student engagement in the history of the UC in general. I hope to address this in my presentations to make lobby corp members as comfortable as possible when meeting with legislators. I am also slightly struggling to make the topics interactive, and have sought out the help of our Leg Director and past EVC for ideas.
- Currently I am in the process of scheduling our lobby visits with our statewide legislators. I know Tony has our National Affairs director scheduling visits with members of Congress so I will be working with her to plan out our lobby strategy in those meetings. I have contacted the offices of Assembly Member Mark Stone and Senator Bill Monning, we will be meeting with members of their staff who specialize in Higher Education.
- The annual Grass Roots Legislative Conference (LegCon) is coming up and the application process is being finalized. We hope to bring as many students as possible and to meet with a great many legislators about the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, HR 1330. I am hoping to have conference calls with our USSA Leg Director and National Affairs Director in order to have a prepared and strong delegation.
- During the break, I went over all the files in the legislative binder and broke down a lot of the bills that were archived in UCSA history. I have incorporated a lot of this information into my presentations for lobby corp. UCSA's Leg Committee has suggested each LL design a 30-minute "Teach Me How To Lobby Training". I am working on this project, but it is difficult to condense the information. Hopefully lobby corp will have some suggestions.
- I have also gone through all the legislative profiles on our Elected Officials database. I have compared the voting records of UCSC's assigned legislators to the HERC (Higher Education Report Card) and found that our legislators are possibly the highest scoring group on the database. We are very fortunate to have such key allies without our district and neighboring districts. This information shows that lobby corp will have to take a more proactive approach with their asks and encourage these legislators to become vocal advocates, authors, or co-sponsor since it is clear that they will most likely vote in line with the student stance.

### **Fall Quarter Review and Areas of Improvement:**

- It has been a long transition quarter. My biggest regret this quarter was the long process it took to set up our lobby corp. I wish we could have had an established group that met outside the SUA space during this quarter, but there were many scheduling conflicts and other obstacles. I have been working to set everything in motion to hit the ground running this coming Winter Quarter. It will be amazing to see UCSC finally have an established lobby corp.
- I am concerned with the lack of engagement I am seeing on these campaigns. We have passed resolutions in the SUA space in support of our campaign goals, and even held events, but turnout hasn't been as broad as we hoped for. It seems that the same group of students are attending our events and meetings, which is a good sign of retention, but I would like to see a wide variety of voices and opinions when tackling these issues.

- The EVC office, I feel needs to do more outreach to get the message out to the student body. A lot of our work has mainly been focused on the logistical and administrative part of running campaigns, which while important, is not sufficient enough to win campaign victories.