

Legislative Liaison January Report:

January:

- Lobby Corp started having its weekly meetings outside of SUA on Wednesdays at 8pm-10pm in Hahn Student Services 245. We have about 12-15 recurring members each week. I have created and gave presentations on the CA Legislative Process, CA Budget Process, Lobbying 101, and the UCSA Campaigns.
- During this month we went on 2 lobby visits with Assembly Member Mark Stone and State Senator Bill Monning. I'm currently in the process of scheduling more in-district visits with the legislators UCSC are responsible for. I will also be sending out formal meeting requests so we meet with the Legislators themselves during SLC. We also have lobby visits scheduled with our National Legislators in February.
- I have been working with the National Affairs director on National Legislative issues in preparation for LegCon at the end of this quarter. We have been going over the Federal Higher Education Act, specifically looking at Pell Grants, Trio Programs, and Student Loan Debt Reform. We had an event (Education at a Cross Roads) on Wednesday Jan 29th to discuss the state of Higher Ed on the Federal level. The turn out mostly composed of lobby corp members, but we did get some new faces.
- I have been having periodic check-ins with the UCSA Leg Director, and had a joint check-in with our National Affairs Director and USSA's Leg Director. During my check-ins with Sean Connelly (UCSA Leg Director) we talk about ways to develop Lobby Corp and its members, effective lobbying tactics, and creating a timeline for SLC preparation. During our joint check-in with Kalwis Lo (USSA Leg Director) we received legislative updates on a national level, and received our campus responsibility list for LegCon. Kalwis was also able to send us some training materials.
- The deadline to introduce bills in this CA legislative cycle is on Feb 21st. We have already been fielded some bills from Sean, and a few were given stances during our Merced Board Meeting. I am continuously reading over bills relating to Higher Ed and our campaigns, and also encouraging lobby corps to do so. We will begin reviewing and analyzing bills as a group during February meetings.
- I have also been attending meetings with FFUC representatives along with Tony. Even though this campaign is not legislatively focuses, it is still within my duties as a UCSA board member to bring this campaign to campus. We are currently in the works of drafting a resolution to be presented to our Academic Senate and will be meeting with the Academic Chair and Faculty members to discuss obtaining their support.
- I attended the UCSA Board meeting in Merced. During our Leg Committee breakout we decided our stances on 5 out of 9 pieces of legislation. None of these stances were of priority 1, meaning that they would be the main focus of Leg Committee and UCSA would co-sponsor the bills and actively have a presence in Sacramento during each step of the process. However, many more bills will be introduced soon. During the board meeting we also started preliminary planning for SLC which will be held on April 5th-7th. We received Fund the UC and IGNITE postcards to be signed by students and sent to legislators in Sacramento. The EVC staff (& Lobby Corp) is currently in the process of planning campus-wide events for this purpose.

January Review and Areas of Improvement:

- This quarter has been going very well. Lobby Corp is meeting on a regular basis and spending our time productively. I hope to work on institutionalizing lobby corp soon so that the committee will always have a presence.

- I still see a lack of engagement on the campaigns outside of lobby corp. I hope that now we have a group of core volunteers we will be able to organize events and get people educated and engaged. I plan to train lobby corps to do quick report backs in each of their respective spaces on what we are currently doing and how they can get involved. I also hope to plan at least 1 outreach event for the next month, and also to give report backs to spaces that do not have affiliates in lobby corp.
- There is a heavy emphasis on State and National issues during our meetings, but we have yet to tackle local issues in lobby corp. I hope to collaborate with our local affairs director to close this gap and have students meet with city council and our local representatives soon.