



Student Union Assembly (SUA), Office of the Chair

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

September 10th, 2014

Dear Student Union Assembly,

Under my duties as Chair of the Student Union Assembly and Article III Section A.1 of the SUA Constitution, I present my August 2014 monthly report and evaluation to the Assembly.

Activities for the month of August 2014

Transition Internal Vice Chair Kaysi Wheeler

Kayla Oh turned down the position of Internal Vice Chair, so it went to the runner-up, Kaysi Wheeler. Kaysi was unable to take office until August, so the IVC office was vacant for the month of July. I assumed the duties of the office in the interim, helped welcome Kaysi into the officer group when she took office, and put her in touch with the Dean of Students office and SCOC EVC Victor Garcia-Zepeda.

SCOC's website went down in late July, which resulted in the loss of most of SCOC's electronic records. We don't know who was responsible for the site's hosting, so that information is considered permanently lost. I provided Kaysi and Victor with the few remaining records I could find so they can work on a new website and committee database.

Office cleaning, organization, and potential relocation

Last year's officers left a minifridge full of rotten food; I coordinated with Receiving Services to have it removed. Keys to the Operations Manager desk and computer locks were lost, so I had the lock shop unlock the desk and remove the computer locks. The files in the desk have been temporarily relocated to the Dean of Students office until secure storage can be provided in the SUA office.

I've been informed by Assistant Dean of Students Lucy Rojas that rear of the office, where the Commissioner of Academic Affairs' and Internal Vice Chair's desks are housed, is seismically unsafe and should only be used for storage. A seismic evaluation will occur in September to determine a safer layout for the office.

The Student Union building will be renovated beginning in Summer 2015, so the SUA office will be temporarily relocated for the 2015–2016 school year. At the moment, the only available location appears to be trailers in the Merrill College parking lot. That space would be unsuitable due to its remote location, so I'm investigating alternative options. If we are able to secure a more desirable space, we may relocate early.



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Admissions outreach training presentation

Ebony Lewis, Associate Director of Admissions, invited me to give a presentation to admissions outreach staff about the function, purpose, and goals of SUA. After my presentation, I fielded specific questions to make sure the audience had an in-depth understanding. The Office of Admissions is most prospective students' first contact with UCSC, so it is important that its staff be informed about SUA and other student life organizations on our campus. Afterwards, I sat on a student panel to discuss campus climate, the UCSC experience, and the image of UCSC both within the student body and the general population of California.

UCSA Congress and Council of Presidents meeting

I attended UCSA Congress as a voting delegate to represent SUA to our delegation, the delegations of other UCs, and at the concurrent Council of Presidents meeting.

Organizing Director Brad Mleynek and I missed the first day of Congress due to class conflicts, so we funded our own transportation out of pocket so as not to impact the SUA budget.

The Council of Presidents meeting was held at UC Berkeley on the second day. We discussed our relationship with UCSA, especially as it concerns the student regent selection process. Tuition and Student Service Fee (SSF) increases were talked about as well. We were surprised to hear from Sonali Madireddi (graduate President at UC Irvine and Chair of the Council on Student Fees) that CSF had not been informed of a potential SSF increase. From what we know, part of the money will be earmarked for mental health services; I plan to meet with Student Health Services to discuss this matter. Council of Presidents will have this year's first meeting with UC President Janet Napolitano sometime in September. We elected our new co-chairs Robby Boparai (undergraduate President at UC San Diego) and Preston Williams (graduate President at UC Riverside).

I spent the rest of UCSA Congress attending workshops and networking with delegates from UCSC and other UCs. UCSA chose to adopt two campaigns for the 2014–2015 school year: IGNITE (Invest in Graduation Not Incarceration, Transform Education) has been extended, and UConsent, a sexual violence awareness campaign, was adopted as well. I met with External Vice Chair Louise Cabansay and students and staff from SHOP shortly after Congress to plan implementation of UConsent at UCSC.

IGNITE website: <http://ucsa.org/action-alerts/help-fight-incaration-and-reclaim-education-f-i-r-e/>

UConsent website: <http://7000insolidarity.org/uconsent/>



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SUA meeting space MOU

I met with Scott Berlin and Clinton Jeffries of Dining Services to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SUA and Dining Services about the use of the Alumni Room as SUA's meeting space. Like last year's MOU, it requires that the room be arranged properly when we leave, no food be consumed, and the room is emptied before 10:00 PM. The last requirement was not respected last year, but I intend to enforce it this year. In exchange for following these rules, we are guaranteed the Alumni Room every Tuesday from 6:00–10:00, or an alternate space when necessary, for no charge. I intend to hold the first SUA meeting of 2014–2015 on Tuesday, October 21 at 6:00 PM in the Alumni Room. The full text of the MOU will be posted to the SUA website soon.

Police Chief's Advisory Board meeting

I will serve as this year's SUA representative to the Police Chief's Advisory Board. The Board has representatives from many campus units (mostly administrative) that are there to advise Chief Nader Oweis on UCPD's public image and how it can best outreach to the campus community.

Dean of Students-sponsored officer training

I met with Assistant Dean of Students Lucy Rojas to plan officer training sessions for the first week of September, to familiarize the officers with budgeting, CruzBuy, and Infoview, and work on team building. Further details will be in my September report.

Weekly officer meetings

We held officer meetings nearly every week in August (the week of UCSA Congress was too hectic) to discuss our goals, activities, and progress. The meetings have been productive so far and I have high hopes for future meetings throughout the year.

Suggestions for improvement

- Communication broke down several times on issues regarding UCSA Congress. After a delegate dropped out at the last minute, there was conflict over how the seat should be filled. Some officers, including myself, wanted to go down our list of backup delegates; others preferred a different resolution. In the end, the seat was left unfilled. In the future, we should establish a clear and binding procedure for resolving similar situations.

Hotel room assignment was confusing for most of the delegates. I saw at least three different versions of the room schedule prior to the conference, and after dark on the first day many still did not know where they were sleeping. Logistical communication to delegates must be clear and unambiguous, especially for first-time conference attendees.



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- There was a misunderstanding between the officers and the Dean of Students office about the role and function of the SUA Advisor (who will be hired over the course of the next few months). More open communication, including possible weekly meetings between the officers and the Dean of Students office, could help avoid future misunderstandings.

If you have any further questions about my activities for August 2014, please contact me at suachair@ucsc.edu or visit my office hours.

Sincerely,
Justin Lardinois
Chair, Student Union Assembly