



Student Union Assembly (SUA), Office of the Chair

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

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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 January 2015 monthly report and evaluation to the Assembly.

### **Activities for the month of January 2015**

#### **SUA Advisor In-Person Interviews**

I continued to serve on the SUA Advisor search committee with Commissioner of Academic Affairs Max Hufft. The four candidates we advanced from the phone interview process came to UCSC to give separate interviews with the search committee and then the SUA officers, followed by forums with other campus stakeholders. The interviews gave perspective that previous stages of the process hadn't been able to. We will deliberate on the candidates in February 2015 and hopefully have someone hired by March.

#### **Intern Pay Accountability**

All hourly UCSC employees, submit their hours worked via a CruzPay timesheet. Their supervisor then approves the time sheet, paying the employee for the reported hours, or rejects it.

The official supervisor for SUA interns is Lucy Rojas, the Assistant Dean of Students, though in practice she defers to the SUA Chair on payroll approval. My predecessor established a complicated, bureaucratic process for pay reporting and approval. As an experiment, during fall quarter I granted the officers a high degree of autonomy in intern pay; I assumed that any hours reported on time sheets were true and correct, and acted more as a rubber stamp than anything else.

This experiment showed that the *laissez-faire* approach has issues. One intern in particular reported an especially high number of hours, leading me to wonder if the reports were a true and honest representation of the work completed.

To ensure greater accountability in intern pay, beginning winter quarter I am requiring all interns to submit a pay report form along with their timesheet that details how their time was spent. After time sheets are submitted, Lucy Rojas sends the reported hours to my Chief of Staff, Kelly Herron, who reconciles them with the submitted pay report forms, to ensure that the hours reported are accurate. Afterwards, the reconciliation is sent to me for final approval. I then instruct Lucy to pay all interns who reported properly. So far,



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this has reduced the overall number of hours reported, suggesting that there were, in fact, misreported hours, and has allowed me to audit the process much more easily.

### **Meeting with Student Union Governance Board Chair**

I met with Student Union Governance Board (SUGB) Chair Oscar Vazquez to discuss the upcoming decanting and seismic retrofit of the Student Union building. The Student Union currently houses SOAR and several student organizations, including SUA.

Seismic retrofitting will take place from late spring 2015 until at least summer 2016, and in the meantime all of the Student Union's tenants will be relocated. Where everyone will be located to is still an open question—but I affirmed to Oscar that regardless of what happens, SUA should be treated the same as all other organizations. More about the future of the Student Union tenants will be in my next report.

### **Student Organization Funding Advisory (SOFA) Committee**

I held the registered student organization (RSO) funding call much earlier this quarter to make more events eligible for SUA funding. This was the first funding call we had had since hiring our Treasurer Franchesca Finnigan, and she did an amazing job of facilitating the process and maintaining communication between organizations and SUA. The SOFA meetings took less time than in fall quarter, and the committee seemed much less partisan this quarter. SUA concurred with the vast majority of SOFA's recommendations.

### **Meeting with Santa Cruz City Councilmember David Terrazas**

External Vice Chair Louise Cabansay and I met with David Terrazas to open up communication between SUA and the city government. David seems very excited to work with students, and told us about various pro-student programs he's initiated during his tenure on city council, such as the "We Speak Slug" campaign and various city government internships for students. Louise and I conveyed some of the concerns students have had about Metro service in particular. We invited him to attend an SUA meeting.

### **Meeting with Student Regents**

I was invited to lunch with other student leaders, campus administration, and Student Regent Sadia Saifudden and Student Regent-designate Avi Oved when they came to visit UCSC. The dialogue ranged from issues facing the University of California, balancing being a student with being a student leader, and the support UCSC would provide if one of our students became the next student regent. Sadia and Avi represent the entire UC student body, and it was a great opportunity to meet with them to talk about the issues that matter to UCSC students. Furthermore, as I'll be serving as UCSC's representative on the Northern Regional Student Regent Nominating Commission, meeting with them helped me to better understand what I should be looking for in student regent candidates.



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### Suggestions for improvement

- “[Factionalism] serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another.”  
— George Washington, in his farewell address

My earlier reports lauded the Assembly for its relative lack of partisanship. The members put the interests of their constituents first, rather than their own personal political gain. But a rift has slowly been forming in the room, and it’s becoming more and more apparent as time goes on. Half the time, the Assembly floor is being used for political grandstanding rather than healthy debate. There’s nothing wrong with having political ambitions—I wouldn’t be writing this report if I had never had any of my own. But as public officials, it is our duty to serve the *student body*, not ourselves. I call on everyone to let the Assembly be a place to get things done, and keep campaigning outside.

If you have any further questions about my activities for January 2015, please contact me as [suachair@ucsc.edu](mailto:suachair@ucsc.edu) or visit my office hours.

Sincerely,  
Justin Lardinois  
Chair, Student Union Assembly