



Student Union Assembly (SUA), Office of the Chair

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

August 8th, 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 July 2014 monthly report and evaluation to the Assembly. In this month's report, I will outline all of my events, logistical planning, activities and constructive criticism with areas of improvement in hopes of providing a detailed account.

Goals prior to taking office

- Transition meetings with outgoing and incoming officers and Assistant Dean of Students

Goals for the month of July 2014

- Clean and reorganize the SUA Office
- Grant office access to all officers
- Grant email, office computer, and WCMS access to all officers
- Order office supplies
- Serve as interim Chair of Student Committee on Committees
- Attend Council of Presidents retreat
- Give SUA presentation to orientation leaders
- Give introductory speech at orientation
- Network with new students and their families and orientation and Slug Night
- Serve on selection committee for UCSA and USSA Congress
- White House conference call on sexual assault prevention and college affordability
- Edit and post intern job descriptions
- Organize regular meetings with Dean of Students and Assistant Dean of Students

Goals completed

- In the weeks following the election, I met with as many officers and officers-elect as I could to prepare for the upcoming year. I was able to meet with IVC Max Hufft, EVC Tony Milgram, and COD Charlsie Chang to discuss the goals and accomplishments of their offices, their working relationship with the Chair, and their perspectives on their successors. I met with EVC-elect Louise Cabansay, CAA-elect Max Hufft, and OD-elect Brad Mleynek to talk about their plans for the year, their opinions on their predecessors, and how I could help assist them. I held several meetings with my predecessor, Shaz Umer, and also met with Kayla



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Oh before she decided to turn down the office of Internal Vice Chair. Anyone else not listed did not respond to my requests for meetings.

- The SUA Office was in disarray when I took office on July 1. Documents, outreach materials, and personal belongings were piled on the desks and tables. Despite repeated reminders from my predecessor and I, the outgoing officers never picked up the many personal effects they had left behind. I advised my colleagues to discard any unwanted items that remained in their workspaces. Among the worst offenders were a basket of unwashed laundry and a minifridge full of rotten food. I resolved the latter by scheduling an ewaste pickup from Receiving Services.
- The Student Union building is open to the public Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM, and the SUA office itself is locked when not occupied. I coordinated with Tere Alaniz-Weaver, the Student Union building manager, to get 24-hour building access and office keys for myself, the other officers, SCOC Executive Vice Chair Victor Garcia-Zepeda, and Assistant Dean of Students Lucy Rojas.
- I instructed the incoming and outgoing officers to get in touch with their counterparts, both to discuss their positions and to share passwords for the officer email accounts and computers. This apparently only worked out for about half of the officers. Thankfully, Lucy Rojas was able to reset the email passwords when necessary. I had ITS reset the computer passwords and grant all officers WCMS access to the SUA website.
- I ordered business cards from UCSF printing and name badges from Brink's Awards & Signs early in the month so that the officers would have them in time for orientation and future university events throughout the year.
- Kayla Oh decided to not take office as Internal Vice Chair, so the position went to the runner-up, Kaysi Wheeler. Kaysi was unable to take office until August, so the IVC office was vacant during the month of July. Under Section 6.A.I.a of the Student Committee on Committees Constitution, the SUA Chair serves as SCOC Chair when the IVC office is vacant. I delegated most of those duties to SCOC EVC Victor Garcia-Zepeda, and assisted him in promoting SCOC during orientation.
- The Council of Presidents is a UC-wide organization comprised of the undergraduate, graduate, and professional student body presidents from all of the UC campuses. I, along with my predecessor Shaz Umer, attended the Council of Presidents summer retreat in Big Bear Lake, California on July 11–13. I chose to take a rental car rather than fly so we could save money. The retreat was a valuable opportunity to network with my counterparts at other UCs and analyze how their organizations do things differently than SUA. We discussed the relationship between Council of Presidents and the UC Student Association, and how their roles differ and overlap. Issues on our agenda included sexual assault, mental health, campus climate issues relating to international students, and



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probable tuition increases for the 2015–2016 school year. Our next meeting, which will include elections for undergraduate and graduate co-chairs, will be held at UCSA Congress in August. We plan to meet with UC President Janet Napolitano at least three times during the upcoming year.

- Rosa Plaza, Director of Orientation, invited me to give a presentation to orientation leaders on July 17. Orientation leaders will be the face of the university to new students and their families when they first come to UCSC, so I feel it is important that they're familiar with student government. I explained the structure and purpose of SUA, and how new students can get involved. The presentation also allowed me to begin building a relationship with the orientation leaders, which was very helpful during orientation.
- Rosa also invited me to give a brief speech in the morning at each orientation. I used the speech as an opportunity to promote SUA, and also to give advice to new students and welcome them to UCSC with a student perspective. Initially, I was followed by EVC Louise Cabansay and OD Brad Mleynek, giving speeches about student issues and the Edge of Eden music festival, respectively, but in later orientations we chose to condense their topics into my speech.
- During lunchtime at orientation, the Resource Fair is held to allow campus departments to outreach to new students. SUA had a table at the Resource Fair each day as well as at Slug Night, a meet-and-greet event the night before orientation. The officers and I answered questions and collected email addresses from new students so we can contact them about SUA in the future. Overall, I spent about 15 hours networking with new students and their families.
- The selection committee for UCSA and USSA Congress was composed of the five SUA officers who were present plus Guillermo Rogel. Each of us read through and scored every application based on a rubric written by EVC Louise Cabansay. The scores served as a guideline for selecting delegates to the conferences. We spent several hours in deliberation and selected a delegation that I believe will do well at the conferences and bring valuable insight back to UCSC.
- On July 28 I attended a White House conference call on sexual assault prevention and college affordability. All California student body presidents were invited. I was unimpressed with the call; the White House representative only presented ideas for campus programs and no opportunity was given for me or my counterparts to comment.
- Lucy Rojas provided me and the other officers with the job descriptions for last year's interns. In addition to Treasurer and Recording Clerk, the Office of the Chair is provided with the budget for an intern and a technical intern. I decided to use the intern line item to hire a Chief of Staff, and technical intern will go to a Communications Director, who will be tasked with promoting SUA's events and programs and communicating with students about their wants and needs. I wrote the four job descriptions from scratch, and all have been posted on the Career



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Center Employee Request System. I've advertised the jobs on Facebook and answered the many questions I've received about them.

- I have begun to meet with Lucy Rojas and Alma Sifuentes and will continue to do so for the rest of the year.

Suggestions for improvement

- The SUA Office is cluttered and does not appear to have been organized recently. In fact, much of the mess seems to have been here since long before last year's officers came in. This year I want to see the office respected as a space and make sure it is left in usable condition when our terms end next June. The design of the building also means that the office is not an ideal workspace. I've talked to Lucy Rojas about the possibility of moving to a different location on campus.
- Transition is very important and I don't think it was taken seriously this year. I understand that some of the outgoing and incoming officers have opposing political views and affiliations, but the lack of cooperation I saw during the transition was petty and undermines SUA as an organization and institution.

In summary, I provide this monthly report for July 2014, as stated as my duty as Chair of the Student Union Assembly. If any member of the student body has questions or would like me to expand on a certain area, feel free to contact me via email at suachair@ucsc.edu, or drop by during my office hours.

Sincerely,
Justin Lardinois
Chair, Student Union Assembly