



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

April 12<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 March 2015 report and evaluation to the Assembly.

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

#### **Council of Presidents Meeting with UC President Janet Napolitano**

As I noted in my February report, the Council of Presidents has taken a stance against SCA 1, the proposed state constitutional amendment that would give the state legislature authority of the University of California. I abstained from that vote, as SUA has not discussed the issue.

In our meeting with President Napolitano, we asked for updates about the Council of Two (no substantive answer), informed her of our stance on SCA 1, reinforced the importance of sexual assault prevention efforts and funding for mental health resources, and brought up the issues of food security and community-police relationships, suggesting that a food pantry be instituted at campuses that don't have one (like UCSC) and that all campuses have a student-run police oversight committee like UC Davis does, respectively.

One recurring issue I have with these meetings is President Napolitano's staff. I, of course, appreciate that they organize these meetings and brief the President on our issues so she is ready to provide meaningful responses. But at times, members of her staff are condescending and outright rude. One of the ideas we discussed in our pre-meeting was having the UC Office of the President lobby the governor to appoint regents that have backgrounds in higher education and are concerned about student issues. One staff responded with "Do you know who appoints the regents?"—as if a council of the highest-ranking student leaders in the UC system does not know that the governor appoints the regents.

#### **Northern Regional Student Regent Nominating Commission**

Each year, the University of California forms two commissions—one Northern, one Southern—to begin evaluating applications for the next Student Regent. The undergraduate and graduate presidents at each campus are each asked to appoint a representative to their region's commission. In practice, most presidents appoint themselves, and I did the same. The Northern Commission met at UC Berkeley.



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Applications from southern campuses are sent to the Northern Commission, and vice versa. We evaluated the candidates based on their experience, knowledge of the current issues in the UC system, and their perceived ability to do the job. From a pool of 28 applicants, we selected 8 to be interviewed in person by the Southern Commission; likewise, they selected 8 Northern applications to be interviewed by us in our April meeting.

### **SUA Advisor Hiring Process**

The six officers met with the Dean of Students and Assistant Dean of Students to discuss the two remaining candidates for the SUA Advisor position. At the meeting, we determined that approximately half of the officers preferred one candidate, and half the other. Though I had the authority to make a final decision, I decided to allow, as the other officers suggested, both candidates to come back for a final in-person interview with all six officers present. Both candidates agreed to the final interviews, and afterwards the officers unanimously agreed to offer the position to one of them. The Dean of Students office is currently in the process of salary negotiation.

### **Suggestions for improvement**

- I ask that all members of the Assembly review our bylaws and propose changes to passages that are outdated, outmoded, or that impede our business. As we move into a difficult budget process, and will possibly see our constitution amended heavily, it is imperative that we keep our procedural rules up to date.

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

Sincerely,  
Justin Lardinois  
Chair, Student Union Assembly