



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

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 October 2014 monthly report and evaluation to the Assembly.

### **Activities for the month of October 2014**

#### **Planning Meeting for BBQ w/Badges**

I met with UCPD CUIP<sup>1</sup> Intern Tony Milgram to discuss BBQ w/Badges, an outreach event by the police department intended to build relationships between the police and SUA and by extension the greater campus community. The Office of the Chair will contribute to the cost of the event. It will be held on Sunday, November 16 from 2:00–4:00 PM at the police department, and all members of the Assembly, as well as the chairs of the college governments and organizations that have representation in SUA have been invited.

#### **Meeting with Government Relations**

External Vice Chair Louise Cabansay and I met with Donna Blitzer, Director, and Melissa Whatley, Assistant Director of Government Relations. Government Relations is a subdepartment of University Relations that builds connections between UCSC and local, state, and federal government. This meeting was a brief introduction so all of us could get acquainted. EVC Cabansay and I are especially interested in how SUA can work with Santa Cruz City Council, so we're glad to have a relationship with Government Relations.

#### **Interviews for Chief of Staff to the Chair and Recording Clerk**

I posted my staff positions in the summer to give students plenty of time to submit quality applications. I first held interviews for Chief of Staff to the Chair and Recording Clerk, as I felt those positions should be filled as quickly as possible. Commissioner of Academic Affairs Max Hufft, Commissioner of Diversity Israel Molina, and Merrill Representative Alexandra Kasper served on the hiring committee. I hired Kelly Herron as my Chief of Staff and Elaine Wong as Recording Clerk. I will hire the Treasurer and Communications Director in November.

#### **Meeting with UCSA Undergraduate Organizing Director**

I had a meeting with UCSA Undergraduate Organizing Director Julian Martinez to talk about the relationship between SUA and UCSA and what I can do in my capacity as

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<sup>1</sup> Chancellor's Undergraduate Internship Program



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Chair to promote UCSA's campaigns and programs on the UCSC campus. One particular concern that he has is the relationship between UCSA's UConsent campaign and the White House's It's On Us campaign. He feels that the White House campaign has elements of victim blaming. I'll make sure to voice that concern when either campaign is discussed.

### **Meeting with Founder of Jaipur Foot**

Last year, the Commissioner of Diversity put on a Holi Fest celebration in association with Tau Kappa Epsilon and Indian Student Association (ISA) that benefited Jaipur Foot, a charity that provides cost-effective and high quality prosthetic limbs to people in India free of charge. Jaipur Foot's founder, Padma Bhushan Devendra Raj Mehta, came to UCSC to meet with ISA. Commissioner of Diversity Israel Molina was unable to make the meeting, so Organizing Director Brad Mleynek and I attended in his place. The meeting gave us the opportunity to learn more about Jaipur Foot, see where our money went, and promote further collaboration between the four organizations involved.

### **Meeting with the Council of Chairs**

The Council of Chairs is composed of the chairs of the college governments. The Council has existed for decades, and predates SUA as the original campus-wide student government. I was invited to the Council's first meeting of the 2014–2015 academic year. I provided an advisory role as the Council elected its chair and discussed how the college governments can work together this year with each other and with SUA.

### **Officer Meetings**

This month we began to have officer meetings at a regular time. This has helped to improve cohesion between the six offices and kept everyone up to date on what their colleagues are doing.

### **Meeting with Executive Vice Chancellor**

I had my first quarterly meeting with Executive Vice Chancellor Alison Galloway. Both commissioners and the Organizing Director attended as well. We discussed several issues that have hit students particularly hard this quarter. Overenrollment in this year's freshman class and renovation of many on campus housing communities have pushed many continuing students off campus who would have preferred to live on campus, and the ever-increasing demand for housing in Santa Cruz has driven up prices and enabled many unscrupulous landlords. The Santa Cruz Metro buses have been even more impacted than they usually are at the beginning of each quarter, and construction on city infrastructure has exacerbated the problem.

EVC Galloway told us that the campus legal office has been assisting many students whose landlords have broken the law, and she has been in communication with Metro's



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administration to transmit the concerns many students have had. Furthermore, she discussed the possibility of building more University-owned housing, possibly off campus on Delaware Avenue.

### **CPC Meeting**

I was invited to attend October's monthly CPC<sup>2</sup> meeting. It was a good opportunity to introduce myself to all the CPCs and remind them of the procedures for college governments to appoint SUA representatives. Several CPCs had concerns about how the SUA meetings had been facilitated in the past. I was able to address those concerns and incorporate them into the following meetings.

### **Porter Senate Meeting**

I served on Porter Senate for most of last year, but my position as SUA Chair doesn't leave me enough time to continue being involved this year. Porter Senate Chair Allison Leighton invited me to attend a meeting this month so I could talk about my plans and goals for the year, and answer questions from the Senate.

### **Student of Color Conference Selection Committee**

I sat on the Student of Color Conference Selection Committee to assist the Commissioner of Diversity in selecting UCSC's delegation. I spent many hours beforehand reading through and ranking over a hundred applications, then several more hours deliberating with the committee.

### **Meeting with Chancellor**

I had my first monthly meeting with Chancellor Blumenthal. We briefly met at the end of last year, so this was an opportunity to have a proper introduction and talk about the future of SUA and UCSC. I touched on many of the same points that I did in my meeting with EVC Galloway and talked about some of the issues I anticipated SUA would be talking about in our first few meetings.

### **SUA Meetings**

SUA began to hold meetings this month. My goal as Chair is to provide a space that is open, safe, and inclusive. I've done my best to educate the Assembly, especially the new members, about procedure, and often clarify what's going on and why, so that everyone understands what they're talking about and more importantly what they're voting on. I've met with several representatives individually to gain different perspectives on the meetings and learn about specific problems I can address as Chair.

### **Ad Hoc Budget Committee**

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<sup>2</sup> College Programs Coordinator



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As mentioned in previous reports, SUA is currently in a budget deficit. I wrote a report that detailed the issues and necessary steps to take, and then introduced the budget issues to the Assembly so they could take action on it. To streamline the process, a member motioned that I create an ad hoc budget committee to make a recommendation to the Assembly. The committee was very productive and created a detailed presentation on what they felt should be done to address the deficit.

### **Preview Day**

I was invited by the office of admissions to speak at three sessions on Preview Day. Preview Day is held just before the UC application period begins, and is intended to encourage students to apply to and choose UCSC. I was invited to give a student perspective to the event, and talk about the college system and the many resources available to students on campus.

### **Suggestions for improvement**

- Most of the items on the meeting agendas so far have been put there by me. That's fine for the first few meetings; as Chair, part of my job is leading SUA's direction, and making sure that we address what we need to address. But as the year goes on, I'd like to see more business introduced by other members, especially the representatives.

If you have any further questions about my activities for October 2014, please contact me at [suachair@ucsc.edu](mailto:suachair@ucsc.edu) or visit my office hours.

Sincerely,  
Justin Lardinois  
Chair, Student Union Assembly