



Student Union Assembly (SUA), Office of the Chair

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

October 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 September 2014 monthly report and evaluation to the Assembly.

Activities for the month of September 2014

SUA Officer Training

Assistant Dean of Students Lucy Rojas and I assembled a week-long training course to prepare the officer group for the year. We were trained in CruzBuy, Infoview, budgeting, hiring and payroll, event planning, travel, and facilitation skills. The course also had a large focus on team building skills; I believe that this will be very helpful for maintaining cohesion between the six offices throughout the year. University Relations gave a presentation about their plans for the 50th anniversary of UCSC; SUA will be looking for ways to collaborate with those celebrations, which happen to coincide with the 30th anniversary of SUA.

City on a Hill Press Interview

I was interviewed by CHP reporter Cory Fong about what has been accomplished over the summer and what SUA and the Office of the Chair will be doing throughout the year. I hadn't been contacted by CHP since the end of election season, so I saw this as a great opportunity to let students know that SUA is working for their interests year round. I'm also looking into the possibility of having CHP reporters attend SUA meetings more often, so they can provide the student body with a direct account of what their student government is doing for them. At the time of this writing, my interview has not yet been published.

Judicial Board Hearing

Judicial Board hears appeals from the student conduct process. Students who disagree with the findings of a campus adjudicator are allowed to come before the board to present their appeal and answer questions from the representatives. This summer I have served as an undergraduate representative on two cases. The proceedings of Judicial Board are confidential.

Meeting with Director of OPERS and Director of Athletics

I met with Andrea Willer, Director of OPERS, and Cliff Dochterman, Director of Athletics, to discuss OPERS' current funding situation. Due to the indefinite closure of the Upper East Field, many sports teams have to rent off campus facilities to hold their



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practices and games. Both Athletics and OPERS in general have long term funding needs, and both directors told me that they plan to run referenda in the near future. As Chair, I cannot take stances or provide political advice on referenda. However, I informed them of what funding sources are available, both from SUA and other organizations, and gave them an overview of the referendum process, as I would for any other party interested in funding and/or referenda.

RA Training Presentation

External Vice Chair Louise Cabansay, Organizing Director Brad Mleynek, and I gave a presentation at the campus wide RA Training about SUA. I gave a general overview of who we are and what we do, Louise talked about the Vote2014 voter registration campaign, and Brad talked about opportunities for new students to get involved.

Meeting with Director of Housing

I met with Dave Keller, Director of Housing, to discuss opportunities for collaboration between Housing and SUA. One of my major campaign platforms was improving relationships between students and Community Safety Officers (CSOs). I know that many students don't feel that CSOs are on their side, working to promote their safety, and I want to change that. Dave invited me to attend a CSO training so I can see firsthand how CSOs are taught to do their jobs. I plan to look for areas where their training can be improved to ensure that they have positive interactions with students.

Council of Presidents Meeting with UC President Janet Napolitano

I went to Oakland with the rest of the Council of Presidents to hold our first meeting of the year with UC President Janet Napolitano. As the student body presidents of the UCs, the Council of Presidents represents a constituency of over 200,000 students. The purpose of our meeting was to introduce ourselves to President Napolitano, present what we feel are the most pressing issues for University of California students, and hear her opinions and feedback about what can be done.

The first item on our agenda was the possibility of a tuition increase for the 2015–2016 school year. Tuition has been frozen for the last three years, but unfortunately the state has not made a large enough commitment to the UC for the freeze to continue. President Napolitano told us that a tuition increase is almost certain at this point, though the exact amount is still to be decided. In the past, she has supported staggering the increase by small amounts over several years, rather than putting up a large amount all at once. The Council prefers this model as well; while an extension of the tuition freeze, or even a rollback, would be ideal, a multi-year plan is preferable to a single-year plan. If the tuition increase is indeed staggered, we asked that the figures for each year be published in advance, so students and their families can better plan for the future.



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Our discussion then segued into professional degree supplemental tuition (PDST). This issue currently does not affect UCSC, as we have no professional programs, but it is a large issue across the UC system. Students pursuing professional degrees (such as medicine, law, or MBA) pay supplemental tuition that is hiked even more often and severely than regular tuition. The graduate presidents will meet with President Napolitano on their own to discuss this issue in more detail in the future.

This year in particular has seen a surge of awareness about sexual assault and violence against women on and off college campuses. The Council of Presidents affirmed to President Napolitano that we are invested in UCSA's UConsent campaign. I'm working with SUA External Vice Chair Louise Cabansay and Safe at Shop to promote a culture of consent at UCSC.

Mental health is another important issue that we want the UC to focus on. Mental health services vary widely in quality across the campuses; at some schools, waiting times for non-emergency counseling services are as high as six weeks. Rumors have circulated about a possible increase to the Student Services Fee to cover the cost of improved services. Although President Napolitano told us that nothing has been proposed to the UC Regents yet, we expressed our concern that an across-the-board increase would not necessarily address the disparities between campuses, and brought up the possibility of funding mental health services through revenue streams that already exist.

Finally, we brought up a concern on how the UC Office of the President handles LGBT issues. We applauded the recent creation of a UCOP task force on LGBT issues. However, while UCOP collects statistics on demographics like race and ethnicity so it can better serve underrepresented communities, it does not collect statistics on LGBT students. President Napolitano shared our concern, telling us that in her view, if you don't count something, you're choosing to ignore it.

The Council of Presidents will continue to meet with President Napolitano at least once a quarter so we can keep her informed on what issues are more important to our constituents.

Student Leadership Institute Deconstructing the University Panel

I was invited, along with Dean of Students Alma Sifuentes, Executive Vice Chancellor Alison Galloway, and Commissioner of Diversity Israel Molina, to talk to student leaders about navigating the university. Each of us gave brief presentations on what our offices do for students and advice on how to get access to resources at UCSC. We then segued into questions from the SLI attendees, which led to a productive discussion about the facilitation role of the SUA Chair and SUA's commitment to student events.



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Meeting with CALPIRG Campus Organizer

I met with Rob Smith, CALPIRG's new Campus Organizer. CALPIRG has already been working with the Office of External Affairs to assist with Vote2014. Rob and I discussed how SUA and CALPIRG have worked together in the past, and he mentioned that CALPIRG may run a referendum in the near future. As with any other potential referendum author, I gave him an impartial overview of how the referendum process works at UCSC.

Fall Festival

All six officers tabled at Fall Festival to promote SUA and inform interested students what SUA does for the student body. Many students signed up for our mailing list and registered to vote. Between Fall Festival, Slug Night, and orientation, SUA was able to reach out to many new students, who are important to ensure that SUA continues to grow and sustain itself as time goes on and current leaders leave office and graduate.

Suggestions for improvement

- It's difficult to get all six officers together at the same time and place. I realize that the six of us are some of the busiest students on campus, and schedules often conflict. But to keep working together, we need to meet regularly. I encourage everyone to do their best to make it to the weekly officer meetings.
- Nearly all the feedback I've heard about the new SUA meeting time (6:00 PM rather than 8:00 PM) has been negative. I understand that the time is inconvenient for many, and although I have to have meetings at that time if we meet in the Alumni Room, I'm doing everything I can to find an alternate space that would allow us to meet at 8:00. I'll make sure to publicize it widely if I move the meetings to a new location.

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

Sincerely,
Justin Lardinois
Chair, Student Union Assembly