



Student Union Assembly (SUA), Office of the Commissioner of Diversity

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

September 10, 2014

Student Union Assembly,

Under my duties as Commissioner of Diversity of the Student Union Assembly and Article III Section D.4 of the SUA Constitution, I present my August 2014 monthly report and evaluation to the Assembly. I will outline all of my event, logistical planning, activities and constructive criticism with areas of improvement in hopes of providing a detailed account in this month's report.

### **United States Student Association Congress at UC Irvine**

From August 7<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> EVC Cabansay and I took a delegation, formerly picked by the officer group, to the UC Irvine campus to attend the USSA Congress. This congress hosted a variety of workshops and caucuses that focused on a variety of topics and were welcoming to people of many different identities. In being so long, the volume of workshops was at times overwhelming and sometimes had overlapping topics or spaces, which sometimes made it difficult to choose which to go to (for example if two identity caucus spaces that you identified with were being held at the same time). Out of this conference I have taken back information from a "Running Referenda" workshop which is very similar to the model EVC Cabansay is currently using for her 'Vote Campaign' and I think would be of interest to OD Mleynek. This workshop in general laid out a structure around which I believe any campaign or program can be formed around in order to be successful. Another major take away for me came out of the Queer People of Color Caucus space. In talking about how important it is to hold this space because how unrepresented this intersection of identities is a student came up with the idea of beginning a visibility campaign. This campaign would focus on not only increasing visibility for queer students but to break down harmful preconceptions of what it means to be queer, with an emphasis on queer people of color. I was really taken by this idea and plan to implement it at our campus. On a final note during the plenary session of Congress I witnessed an extremely efficient and well executed facilitation of a meeting using Roberts Rules of Order. The facilitator, Angus, not only had a very in-depth knowledge of Roberts Rules, he also emphasized the point that the reason they are so complicated is so that the majority cannot silence the minority and his style of facilitation reflected that. An important piece of this was to empower people to use the 'point of inquiry', which can be called at anytime, to stop the meeting and understand what is going on. I plan on using his style of facilitation in my own meetings and will meet with Chair Lardinois to further discuss techniques that can be used in SUA meetings. This is a particularly important take away since it directly relates to the Officer Groups' goal to create a more welcoming space in SUA next year.



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### **University of California Student Association Congress in Oakland**

From August 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> we took a delegation to the UCSA Congress held in Oakland. This conference was a lot smaller than the previous one but provided very useful workshops that directly correlated with UC specific issues and allowed for networking with students across the UC system. The most powerful workshop that correlated with my work was called “Diversity Requirements and Competent Trainings”. It covered the historical struggles that minority students and students from underserved backgrounds have gone through to fight for programs and resources. It also talked about UCLA’s current Diversity Requirement proposal. This workshop not only connected me to other students that are working on similar topics, but shifted the questions that I will be asking when meeting with administration. I also attended a workshop held by our very own Guillermo Rogel called ‘Bring the Green’ that focused on creating a revenue source for the UCs from the legalization of Marijuana. The workshop was very well researched and tied into the current IGNITE campaign, in it’s ability to reduce the number of drug-related incarcerations. The congress as a whole voted to make UConsent the campaign for the year, focusing on creating a culture of consent and increasing services to sexual assault survivors. Afterwards the delegation began working on different ways to bring back the information from that campaign and from the failed Master Plan campaign to our campus. The board of directors also decided to hold the Student of Color Conference at UC Merced on November 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Overall this conference was a success, not only did I get a lot out of the workshops and was able to connect with people from across the UC system, the delegates did too and I was particularly impressed of how much they stepped up and participated wholeheartedly and passionately.

### **Meetings with Resource Center Directors and Specialist**

#### *- Gender and Sexuality Specialist Tam Welch*

Tam’s position revolves around intersectional work, with complicated and hidden identities that are often undefined spaces. She stressed that the restructuring of the resource centers meant that diverting resources through other means was necessary. When I brought up the idea of the queer visibility campaign she suggested that it tie into the 50<sup>th</sup> year celebration and proposed the name “The Nifty Fifty”. The campaign will take 50 participants 10 each from undergrads, grads, faculty, staff and alumni. We also further sharpened what I would like to see from a Cultural and Identity Competency program and suggested that I speak to Sheree Marlowe the Assistant Campus Diversity Officer in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

#### *- Director of El Centro Chicano Latino Resource Center Judith Estrada*

Judith is currently serving as the interim Women’s Center Director and informed me that beginning January 26<sup>th</sup> the Women’s Center will be unavailable. Her goals for the center are simply to maintain its resources to students and to transition the new director smoothly. Her goals for El Centro are to maintain its



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annual events, develop a research proposal on where graduated interns are now in order to develop more research opportunities and have background when applying for funding and grants, and to create a sound curriculum for academic internships. She also suggested that SUA table Carnival the Chicano Latino Org outreach event on October 11<sup>th</sup>, which I went ahead and reserved a table for.

*-Director of Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center Director Nancy Kim*

Nancy is currently serving as the American Indian Resource Center Director, but the new director should begin in October. In talking about the Cultural and Identity Competency she suggested I speak with Karen who works on CRE. As director of all the resource centers she and I are set to meet again to talk about how to move forward with the Resource Center Advisory Council after the restructure that took place last year. She also invited SUA to a leadership mixer Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> and a community reception October 17<sup>th</sup>, which I plan to attend. Her goals for the year are to stabilize the center and create a consistency in their processes, and to establish a consistently good reputation.

*-Director of Cantú Queer Resource Center Deb Abbott*

This year Deb will hire a graduate student for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, in order to both provide them with professional experience and better stabilize the Cantú Center and hire fewer undergraduate interns because last year it was difficult to manage the number that she hired and they were not getting the support they needed. In our meeting we sharpened what the “Nifty Fifty” Campaign would look like and worked out how our two offices would be working on it together. She has connections to queer alumni and staff that are indispensable resources for this project.

*-Director of the African American Resource and Cultural Center Shonté Thomas*

This is Shonté’s second year in the director position and hopes to be in more collaboration with SUA this year, beginning with sending an intern to SUA meetings. She plans on targeting 1<sup>st</sup> year students by tackling many of the challenges that res life entails and making herself available to RA’s as a resource. She also wants to diversify her programming for all students, particularly those majoring in STEM, and expanding the recruitment and retention services that the AARCC provides.

Summary: It was very important to me to meet all the directors face-to-face and talk about the goals we have each set for the year. They all were very supportive and I can see a lot of potential in working in collaboration with them and will maintain continuous contact with each of them. In my pursuit of a Cultural and Identity Competency Program they all suggested that I meet with Sheree Marlowe and I have made arrangements to do so.

\*Note: Many of these meetings covered the same topics, in order to keep things concise I only stated unique points of information from each meeting.

## **August Review and Areas of Improvement**



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- August went very well. I met with many key members of administration and got a clearer idea of what direction I want the year to take. I still have other administrators that I would like to meet face-to-face, like the director of STARS, the DRC and ARC, and plan on scheduling meetings with them individually.
- Not much work was done on planning SOCC this month due to the back to back conferences but now that a date is set I plan on doing more next month.

In conclusion, I provide this summary as my report for the month of July 2014. If you have any questions please contact me at [suacod@ucsc.edu](mailto:suacod@ucsc.edu).

Respectfully,  
Israel Molina  
Student Union Assembly Commissioner of Diversity