



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

December 8, 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 November 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.

### **Student of Color Conference**

From November 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> OD Mleynek and I took a delegation of 100 students to UC Merced for the annual UCSA Student of Color Conference. We also provided transportation for 3 graduate students. This conference offered workshops that addressed topics of diversity and the issues that arise, and caucus spaces for different identities. Since the conference was only two days long it was difficult for students to pick which spaces to attend because there were many options during the individual sessions, which were few. From the spaces that I visited important dialogue was facilitated amongst communities to address issues that can arise from them. For example in the 'Machismo, Social Masculinity Development within Latino Males' an extensive dialogue was had within the Latino community about the roots of machismo and its detrimental effects, I saw many people begin to have epiphanies and connect their personal experiences and give them concrete analytical language. I did have some concerns about the facilitation of certain space. For one, at the 'White Privilege' workshop the facilitator kept referring to people of color as *colored people*. The starkest example of facilitation problems was during the Queer Caucus space in which the facilitators not only didn't use gender-neutral language and proceeded to silence a whole group of students who entered and asked if they could create their own QTPOC space since the caucus was so large. This incident lead to a major walkout of the 'official space' and a type of grassroots movement on behalf of those who left the space. While in that grassroots space I heard extremely thoughtful critiques and dialogue of the conference and the incident, this further lead to the QTPOC space drafting a list of grievances and going up during the lunch program to voice them. These grievances included the absence of Asian American/Pacific Islander spaces, the need for South West Asian and North African spaces and the lack of inclusive language. These were concerns that students from our delegation also brought up from a survey that I sent out after the conference. During the conference I also attended the second part of the UCSA board meeting. It was concerning that during the meeting many of the representatives did not vote on numerous issues and that UCLA and UCB often dominated the conversation often disregarding the comments of other campuses. It was particularly concerning that when deciding on actions to take at the UCSF regents meeting, important decisions such as the action within the meeting, were made by a very small number of representatives with abstention/indifference by the rest of the board,



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obviously showing that there was hesitation to agreeing to it, because no one was worried by this is even more worrisome. Moving forward I would suggest that in the future this conference be planned by the EVC *and* COD since it is such a large conference and it was difficult for just me to plan, especially when the EVC is the main contact to UCSA and communication often broke down between the two of us since the EVC was not invested in the planning of the conference.

### **Resource Center Advisory Council**

Director Nancy Kim and I held the Resource Center Advisory Council for the first time this month. Student representatives from each resource center and the major identity organizations were invited to participate. During the meeting we clarified the vision of what the council as an official way for students to communicate to the resource centers ways to improve and current needs of student communities. The council also serves as a way for the resource centers to communicate administrative information to students and for students to weigh in on those decisions. We brainstormed further discussion items for future meetings and for presentations to be made at the meeting, this includes the principles of community campaign that is beginning in winter quarter and updates from the Women's Center which is undergoing major changes.

### **Chief of Staff Hiring**

I convened a hiring committee and conducted intern interviews this month. I only conducted interviews for the Chief of Staff and Resource Center Coordinator positions because they were the only ones to contact me in return. I chose to hire Aykezar Adil as my Chief of Staff and am awaiting her to go through the schools hiring process.

### **BBQ with Badges**

Chair Lardinois organized a joint event with Tony Milgram as CUIP intern at the UCSC Police Department. We met a few officers and got a tour of the police department and learned about the procedures that the police department goes through in different situations. Towards the end of the event Chief Nader Oweis arrived and we got to speak to him directly. We had a long conversation about many of the issues that our campus faces and got to hear his views on them and his approaches to them. From speaking to him it is clear that not only does he truly care about the student body, but that for the most part his very in tune to the issues that students face. While he has made it clear that his first goal when he began his position was to make sure that the department was in compliance with the law and enforcing it justly, our conversation seldom *focused* on enforcing law. For the most part he talked about community outreach, which he has been working on by expanding his intern base that was non-existent when he first entered his position, and on student/community issues such as stress and mental health. He also talked about all the different ways that he does his best to help those that come to the police department for help that I didn't know of, for example they have helped several students afford groceries and with rent when students couldn't make ends meet. In all it



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was a very enlightening event and I hope that we can work with Chief Oweis to bridge the gap between the police department and the student body.

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

- I must again stress the importance of communication amongst the officers *and* the assembly must be strengthened if we are to accomplish bigger things. We must continue to motivate the assembly to take initiative and to work in a partnership with each other and with the officers.
- Now that I have hired a Chief of Staff I hope to increase the workload of my office and to begin accomplishing the goal that I set up for myself previously. The first order of business is hiring the other two interns and strategically planning the next two quarters.

In conclusion, I provide this summary as my report of the month of November 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