

March Report

Student Union Assembly,

Under my duties as External Vice Chair of the Student Union Assembly and Article III Section A. 3 of the SUA Constitution, I present my March 2015 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.

UCSA March Board Meeting at UCSB

UCSA's March board meeting was hosted at UC Santa Barbara. I was not able to attend this meeting due to time conflicts with my RA position at college 8, but I designated Guillermo Rogel, the Campus Organizing Director for UCSC undergrads, as my voting proxy and designated Art Motta as his proxy as acting Campus Organizing Director for that meeting.

The highlights for this meeting included a conversation with Assemblymember Das Williams about his views on the tuition increase and legislative and UC relations. Assemblymember Das Williams is not supportive of legislative oversight of the UC and thinks the state should do more to fund Higher Education, but ultimately that decision is in the hands of Jerry Brown who is reluctant to increase the UC Budget.

George Zamora from UCOP reported on some updates, including their preparation to have an Undocumented Student & Issues summit on May 7th. This will be an invite only summit and campuses will be nominating interested students to attend. UC Regent's push for a Global Food initiative to raise funding for and to set up food pantry's on campuses is gaining traction to address student hunger on UC campuses. I know that we currently do not have a student-run food pantry program at UCSC like other campuses, but there is definitely a need for one. It was pointed out to the UCOP rep that the UC should be focusing also on the root causes of food insecurity on our campuses, such as the rising cost of tuition and living expenses in UC cities, especially considering that the proposed tuition increases will just further exacerbate the issue.

UCSA will also be starting its UConsent petition campaign for system-wide in-person bystander prevention and sexual violence prevention training (much like SAFE-SLUGS on our campus). There will be both physical and online petitions to sign. The petitions will be presented at the May UC Regents meeting in time with UCOP's sexual assault prevention task force's review on their findings and recommendations for next steps.

USSA Grassroots Legislative Conference (LegCon) Preparation

For LegCon we will be sending Art Motta, the USSA GPIT Board Member (California, Hawaii, Nevada, and American Samoa regional rep) and SUA National Affairs Director, as well as Maria Aguirre the Legislative Liaison, Ray Inoue (Local Affairs Director) and myself. We were able to additionally take on Ray as a delegate since UC Berkeley had an extra plane ticket available last minute. The four of us will be spending the majority of

spring break in DC in addition to LegCon weekend. We will be finding our own accommodations for this extra time in DC in order to spend that week lobbying as many representatives as possible.

UCSA Student Lobby Conference Preparation

We will be sending a delegation of 40 students to UCSA's Student Lobby Conference April 18-20th. Unfortunately despite campus wide emails, flyering, and numerous class wraps and email blasts only a few students signed up to attend the conference in comparison both UCSA and USSA Congress and SOCC. It is on 4-20 weekend and clashes with other campus activities, but I hope to bring a well prepared and active delegation.

On the tentative agenda for lobbying includes SCA 1, 100m additional budget ask to prevent tuition increase, increased Cal Grant spending, funding the Dream Loan Program, early sexual violence prevention training, and more tbd.

SUA Advisor Hiring Process

The six officers were divided on the final two candidates for the SUA advisor position. We decided that it was best to invite the final two candidates for a follow up interview with all the officers present. After both candidates met with the candidates, the officers unanimously decided on which candidate would be best for the position. Justin articulated this to the Dean of Students and we are waiting to see if the candidate will accept the offer.

Hispanic Serving Institution

Part of USSA's board directives is to support minority serving institutions. Currently research is being done on the role of MSI's (of which UCSC was just named a Hispanic Serving Institution) and making sure that grant funding and services awarded to these campus stay student focused. Guillermo, Art, and myself met with the Dean of Students Alma Sifuentes to ask her questions about the recent HSI summit at UCSB and how UCSC would proceed with implementing new resources and policies. We advocated for there to be a student oversight committee and a public forum in spring quarter.

Lobby Corp

-Higher Ed Lobby Day w/ AFSCME 3/5: On the same day as the tuition protests on campus, AFSCME hosted their lobby day in sacramento with their union members. We were able to send some lobby corp representatives to support workers and to also lobby the legislature on our budget asks necessary to prevent the impending tuition hike.

We prepped our lobby corp members to lead the lobby visits coming up for SLC to make sure there are a mix of experienced and new student advocates. There are going to be a lot of legislative related advocacy days coming up in April and May so we have to increase our numbers and get people out to Sacramento.

SAFE Collaboration

The SUA Office of External Affairs is collaborating with SAFE for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April) and some other projects. Currently we are working with them on the following

- **Laci Green:** Funding and logistical support to hosting Laci Green to speak at SAFE's Violence Prevention Convention in late April
- **Carry that Weight Day of Action:** March around campus carrying mattresses as part of the National Day of action to support survivors
- **UConsent Petitions:** Safe will be helping us get petitions signed and increase awareness about the effort to fund and bring programs like SAFE-SLUGS to all UC campuses, whereas currently UCM and UCSC have such orientations
- **SAFE SLUGS Video Series**

TAPS & Metro

Upon our last meeting with Larry and UC Metro, I asked Larry to come and present to SUA about the TAPS survey results since he mentioned that the current student committee was a small sample of student input. Larry has given the approval for all busses to be outfitted with Simba's bus app tracker, and hopefully soon the bus app will be released and its success will give us the go ahead with the Metro. Its been very difficult to get concrete commitments from the Metro despite UCSC being more than 50% of its ridership, which is understandable considering their budgetary commitments, but there also seems to be some UCSC and local politics preventing us from moving forward. During our last meeting with the Metro we were able to add two additional 20 routes to run on the weekends since most of those busses were passing students by when they finally hit came around to the west side of campus.

Other projects I was hoping to see through during this year was the launch of the new Route 18 that would go down the west side and pass by Safeway. This route was supposed to start last year, but was pushed to this year, and looks like Metro will further push its release to Fall 2015. Extending the route 10 to run as late as route 20 is incredibly unpopular with locals living on the route according to the Metro, but that data seems to old and possibly outdated. I think it will be worthwhile to poll the residents along the 10 route to see if that view is still held.

Local Affairs

One of the projects I wanted to pursue this year was a local affairs festival in the spring. After gauging input from members in the community and consider the lack of a dedicated advisor for SUA for such a big event, it seems like it would be best to collaborate with 50 year anniversary event for the UCSC parade happening in the fall and incorporate the goals for the festival with it.

We are currently navigating the complexities of the local building and housing ordinances of Santa Cruz, which are further complicated by the EPA and Coastal commission jurisdictions. The office will be preparing a thorough report on local affairs to be released in spring in regards to the structure of city council, its agencies, housing policies, tenant codes, transportation, and elections. Hopefully this report will serve as the guiding document for future local affairs advocacy.

Suggestions for Improvement:

- SUA needs to have a dedicated and constant outreach and communications presence. I know there is a communications director under the chair, but it would be helpful for our outreach and efforts to be holistic and encompassing of all the offices.
- There really needs to be more institutional memory for some of SUA's projects. When building lobby corp last year, and now with building local affairs advocacy its been very difficult to find any past internal resources from SUA. I feel like we've had to re-invent the wheel on many things, especially the structure and working of city council and its agencies. The meetings with city agencies are departments are very difficult to book because we haven't built the connections necessary as students yet (knowing who to meet with, who to contact for contact info, etc) and in the actual meetings we have we aren't taken very seriously in our demands since they know the rate of turnover in student leadership is really high. There are many things in external affairs especially that cannot be solved in the span of 1 term in office, and I hope that the ground work that is being and has been laid done for all of SUA's projects will be carried on.

If you have any further questions about my activities for March 2015, please contact me at suaevc@ucsc.edu or visit my office hours.

Sincerely,
Louise Cabansay
External Vice Chair, Student Union Assembly