

August External Vice Chair 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 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.

USSA Annual Student Congress at UC Irvine

Between August 7th and 12th, SUA sent a delegation of 10 students to the annual USSA congress to propose, plan, and pick campaigns for students level to work on for the year at a national level. Ultimately, the two campaigns chosen were Sexual Assault Prevention and State of Emergency (a national campaign about increasing accessibility to underrepresented students). I lead the delegation along with COD Molina. At the congress I periodically checked-in with all of the UCSC delegates to make sure they were getting the most of the conference and if they had ideas about how we could bring national campaigns back to campus. Three members of our delegation were elected into USSA leadership (Art Motta was elected GPIT Chair, Crystal Centeno was elected Vice-Chair of the Mental Health Caucus, and I was elected Vice-Chair of the Minority Serving Institution Caucus).

USSA offered a variety of workshops and caucus spaces over the 6 day conference. I believe our delegates greatly benefited from and enjoyed the information presented. One of the workshops I attended centered around fundraising, they provided us with ideas and tools to go about fundraising for various needs in student government and grassroots organizing. I also enjoyed attending the Statewide Student Association breakout space because it allowed board members from statewide student associations (like our UCSA) to confer on campaigns, strategies, and general practices.

During this conference frictions came up between the regional divisions of USSA. It became clear that member associations across the country had different wants, needs, and limitations. This issue was especially prevalent during the second day of plenary when a resolution regarding supporting student divestment tactics, including divestment from companies profiting from the Israel-Palestine conflict, came up for a vote. A compromise resolution was eventually passed, but not without raising tensions and generating rifts between different associations, delegates, and members of USSA staff. This situation resulted in a questioning of USSA's role as an organization and called for discussion and action regarding the structure of USSA in order for it to be more cohesive and effective as an organization representing students in the areas of Higher Education. I along with a few members of USSA's and UCSA's board have committed to looking into this issue and creating tangible solutions.

UCSA Annual Student Congress at Oakland

From August 14-17, we took a delegation of about 25 students to the Annual UCSA Congress to propose, plan, and pick campaigns that students of the UC system will work on for the year. I was the lead organizer for this conference and was joined by the Chair, OD, COD, and COAA. Over 40 workshops were available for this conference during the 4 workshop sessions. I attended the workshop hosted by Calpirg regarding voter registration, here I was able to network with Calpirg's state organizers, and vote leaders from other campuses, including a representative from CSSA. Another noteworthy workshop I attended was the one regarding "Diversity Requirements and Competent Trainings". I attended this workshop in order to follow up on my campaign promise on writing legislation to create a mandatory requirement for our staff, faculty, and administration to go through a currently optional diversity training. I have also set up meetings with Sean, our legislative director of UCSA, to see how this can be accomplished.

Overall, I believe we brought a very active and engaged delegation to UCSA Congress. During the scheduled delegation meetings they had a lot to say and contribute, and the delegates were also very active in the actions and campaign planning process. I attended the planning sessions for FUNDtheUC, IGNITE, and UConsent to get an idea for what we could bring to our campus and how to proceed as a board member when pushing this campaign forward for the year.

During the evenings of the conference we held our UCSA Board of Directors (BOD) meeting for August. We elected board leadership which includes Jefferson Kuoch-Seng (UCM) as UCSA President, Kevin Sabo (UCB) as Board Chair, and David Santillian (UCR) as our Secretary Finance Officer. The rest of board leadership and membership can be found here: <http://ucsa.org/about/student-board/>

Also at this board meeting we voted to support Prop 47 in this year's election and will be incorporating it into our vote campaign and possibly IGNITE as well. We also held a discussion of USSA Membership. The board agreed that USSA has structural problems in its organization and has been struggling in holding its board and staff accountable in fulfilling its campaigns while they struggle to retain membership. We will discuss and take action at the September Board meeting.

IGNITE continued as a campaign from the previous year and this year the campaign chosen was UConsent. UConsent aims to address sexual assault prevention at the UC-systemwide level.

VOTE 2014

I've been setting up more for the vote campaign for the year. Volunteers have been recruited and I've been working to make coalitions of different student organizations in regards to vote. I've organized a thorough 2-day training for vote for the September 20th & 21st which will be lead by myself and a staff member from UCSA, USSA, and Calpirg. I've also been planning a candidate forum to take place after the voter registration deadline. I've also been reaching out to different events on campus about having our volunteers table or clipboard so that we can have more effective visibility.

Lobby Corps

This month I've been working with the lobby corp structure in order to set up a more permanent system for the years to come. Currently there will be a Local, State, National, and University Affairs component to lobby corps, each led by a member of my staff and populated by volunteers. I hope to outreach to different student groups in order to make this space more effective and representative of student needs. I am attempting to create a 2-unit internship program so that I can build leadership and increase the effectiveness of the office, leading to more campaign progress. Currently Lobby Corp is scheduled to meet on Wednesdays from 8-10 in Cervantes Velasquez starting on October 8th. For fall quarter I will be focusing on outreach and training for the group. I will be inviting guest speakers from units on campus (SAFE, UCPD, etc), our affiliate organizations (UCSA, USSA), and other speakers (Calpirg, Regents, the Mayor etc) to come meet with lobby corp and any interested students before the legislature resumes its sessions. I have also been creating new graphics for the office and the campaigns. I hope that this would serve to increase the visibility of our campaigns, which will hopefully facilitate more student engagement on campus.

Field Visit w/ UCSA's Field Organizer Julian Martinez

Our field organizer from UCSA came to campus to meet with myself and other students. We planned our goals for the year and conducted some preliminary organizing for VOTE (backwards planning, etc). I asked him to help me plan a volunteer training on September 20th & 21st and we outlined the objectives and trainings we thought vote volunteers would need the most help with. He also helped me create a leadership develop plan for my staff and volunteers for the year.

Sacramento State Senate Appropriations Hearing and Lobby Visits

Myself along with students from UCSC, UCB, and UCD went and testified on behalf of UCSA on August 4th at the California State Senate Appropriations Hearing. Some of the bills we advocated for included SB 967 and AB 1210. We also met and lobbied various legislative staffers on behalf of these bills, especially in regards to increasing the budget to the UC System. The day was a great success and our legislative director at UCSA received a bunch of thank yous from legislative offices for our efforts. I think it would be greatly beneficial for the Northern California campuses to continue these joint lobbying efforts throughout the year.

Areas of Improvement

- **UCSA & USSA Conferences:** I took a great amount of precaution and preliminary planning to make sure these conference went well both logistically and in content. That work clearly paid off in regards that overall we had two great delegations and minimum issues, but there were still a few bumps. I think it would be beneficial for future EVCs to require that students meet either at UCSC or somewhere along the route to the conference, and also to minimize the usage of personal vehicles for conference travel. It should also be communicated early on the role of co-delegation leaders to ease the burden on one officer.

- **Internships:** After speaking with many other UC student government officers, I've learned that many function with a full staff or nearly full staff over the summer. These positions are usually unpaid, but greatly increase the effectiveness of the student government. I think UCSC could benefit from either a volunteer summer internship program or even hiring staff over the summer for less pay if funds are available, credit internships might also be an option. It has been difficult to focus on all the areas of my office equally since a lot my duties (local, state, national, regents meetings, conferences, etc) start immediately after (and sometimes before) taking office and having a few staff members would helpful in making external affairs more productive

For any questions, comments, or concerns about my activities for August 2014 please do not hesitate to contact me at suaevc@ucsc.edu.

Sincerely,

Louise Cabansay
External Vice Chair