

February 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 September 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.

UCSA Board Meeting at UCLA

UCSA's February board meeting was hosted at the UCLA campus from February 7 to 8. The meeting had a very packed agenda ranging from campaign planning and discussion to the consideration of some very controversial resolutions. The most controversial item for this meeting was the 'Resolution Calling for the UC Regents to Divest from Corporations Violating Palestinian Human Rights' and the 'Resolution Toward Socially Responsible Investment at the University of California, Socially Irresponsible UC Investments in Governments'.

In preparation for this meeting, I along with the LL and COD of UCSC, held extended office hours for various times during the 2 weeks leading to the meeting. In discussion with the officer core of SUA, it was decided that holding extended office hours would be the best avenue to generate student input without affecting campus climate and instigating a toxic discussion space in comparison to bringing the discussion to SUA once again, especially since our campus has already had numerous discussions on these issues and because it was an external resolution. I made public my office hours to the SUA assembly and on social media. I also made myself available by email and appointment. After conversations with various students with various backgrounds and stances on the issues, the general consensus was reached that if both resolutions were passed together without drastic changes in language for either, then that would be a more fair and acceptable stance for the board to take.

I voted to pass both resolutions, and the board did pass the resolutions in a joint motion after public comment and board discussion. The board also passed a 'Resolution in Support of the College Diversity Requirement for the University of California Los Angeles', a 'Resolution Expressing No Confidence in the Governor of California', and voted to take a legislative stance in support of SCA 1.

In this meeting we really had to solidify our stance from the board in regards to our approach towards UCOP and the CA Legislature. In our efforts to best represent students across the system, we as a board felt that we must remain independent advocates for student interests instead of siding with either UCOP or the CA Legislature. We came to this decision because of the lack of effort and transparency of both parties to involve students in the decision making process despite the fact that students are now paying more for their education than the state and the failure of the university to allocate these students funds back into education, but rather to back fill pensions and other non-instructional commitments.

For a full breakdown of the discussions and actions taking at the February UCSA BOD meeting please view the minutes at ucsa.org.

Lobby Corp

Lobby Corp has been prepping for the upcoming legislative heavy season. We've been going over the introduced legislation, the official stances taken, and prepping for the upcoming hearings and visits. Legislative Liaison Maria Aguirre has been scheduling visits for us with legislators in district and we will be sending members to Sacramento for hearings and lobby days. On February 20th a few lobby corp members went to meet with Senator Bill Monning during which they discussed our support for SCA 1, why we support it, and also our concerns about it. They also discussed the CA budget, our concerns about SB 15, and what a tuition increase would look like and how much funding was needed to avoid it. Senator Monning also came out in support of some form of prop 13 reform, and hopefully such legislation will lead to a stable funding model for Higher Ed. We were also able to send Ray Inoue to AFSCME's lobby day on March 5 to provide a student perspective and help foster coalition building/relations.

During our last February lobby corp meeting we also held a practice debate regarding affirmative action and prop 209 amongst lobby corp members in order to practice discussing such a sensitive issue. I really enjoyed this debate because members were encouraged to practice multiple sides of an issue. The debates seem to be getting more refined and lobby corp members seem to be getting more prepared.

SAFE & SUA Collaboration

As of right now we are working with SAFE mainly through COD Guillermo Rogel. We are helping to put on SAFE's violence prevention convention which has been currently been moved to Media Theater for April 23rd at 8pm. We are also hoping to help safe publish their video series and to organize with them on events and actions.

Local Affairs

Local Affairs Director Ray and I joined Larry Paegler in a meeting with the Santa Cruz metro. During that meeting we were able to advocate for increased weekend routes, extending the hours for route 10, and our support for the faster implementation of a new route that runs through Safeway. We also advocated to Metro for the ability to put the Simba Khadder's bus tracking prototype on the route 17 to pilot its use outside the university. They didn't seem as perceptive to this, but perhaps with more data and proof of concept from its campus implementation then we can try again in the future.

During February City Councilmember David Terrazas came to speak with the SUA to address questions and foster collaboration with the student body. He asked for a more goal oriented and holistic plan for concrete things we could work on together and Ray and I will work to make it happen. Also during this month, Santa Cruz mayor Don Lane came to visit the SUA to propose a collaboration that Santa Cruz is planning to celebrate the 50 years of UCSC. This will be a great opportunity for us to improve campus and city relations and a good springboard for my hoped for event, a community fair. Its becoming more and more apparent that an event of this scale might be a longer project to organize and might transition into next years office.

Tax Prep Program

Unfortunately it looking more like we will not be able to hold a free tax preparation event on campus, however we are looking into every possibility and have yet to exhaust all options. If we cannot hold the event on campus, we will work to publicize places in SC where students can get

their taxes done for free (like the local VITA site) and websites that offer the software for free. From what we learned this year, it seems extremely likely that we will be able to bring this program to UCSC in the following year.

CURB Collaboration

As part of the IGNITE campaign we have decided to focus on joining coalitions such as Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB) to advocate for less prison spending and more education investment. We will be working to lobby with the coalition on bills and to help them with events and education. UCSA also voted to create and circulate student created infographics to educate students about the prison industrial complex and the school to prison pipeline.

SUA Advisor Interviews

I participated in the SUA advisor selection process. I was only able to attend one of the candidate interviews due to class conflicts, but was very impressed with the candidate. My ideal vision for an SUA advisor is someone who can help us carry out more of the bureaucratic aspects of being an officer, someone who does not try to infringe on student governance, and someone who can successfully advocate for us to other staff and administrators.

Meeting with Police Chief Nader

The officer core met with police chief Nader on a variety of issues ranging from upcoming student protest activity to student-law enforcement interaction in general. From this meeting we were able to get a more clear understanding of how our own campuses' UCPD works and have decided to have future meetings with the police chief and his officers. At the meeting we relayed to Chief Nader that we weren't at liberty to share planned protest activities and at best we would inquire with the leadership if they would like to speak with him. Chief Nader also brought to my attention a few bills, specifically body camera bills and sexual assault reporting bills, that were under consideration in the state and federal legislatures. I will bring up these bills for discussion at lobby corp. Chief Nader also agreed to come visit lobby corp to discuss his perspective on how legislative action affects a police department.

Meeting with Vice Chancellor of Business & Administrative Services Sarah Latham

On February 27th we met with VC Sarah Latham. The key topics we addressed during this meeting was mainly the seismic retrofit and relocation of the tenants of the Student Union. I think its very clear to administration where we stand on this issue and what we want to see out of it.

Reviews and Areas of Improvement

This was a really tough month for me mostly because I was sick for almost half of February with the Flu, but I feel like we made a lot of progress. I think the SUA as a whole as been actively working to be more responsive to the student body and it shows with the amount of collaboration we've been able to accomplish with student groups. This month, and the quarter as a whole I haven't able to make every officer meeting due to illness or academic conflicts, but hopefully next quarter the meeting will be scheduled in a less conflicting time. I feel like we're starting to drift a bit as officers as the quarter moves along, but at the same time I feel like we're accomplishing more things together as an officer core and working as a united front when meeting with other students and administration. I'm making it my goal to be more of a team player moving forward. In the office of External Affairs, I have taken a bit of a step back in the

management of my staff team and instead tried a more advisory approach in their projects. This has yielded some success, but overall I think I need to try a different approach and try to implement a more task oriented structure with the various projects. There has also been a slower turn around this month especially with administrative and bureaucratic paperwork, making it more and more apparent that we need a dedicated staff member for SUA related work.

For any questions, comments, or concerns about my activities for February 2015 please do not hesitate to contact me at suaevc@ucsc.edu.

Sincerely,

Louise Cabansay
External Vice Chair