

## **January 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 January Board Meeting at UCSC**

On January 10th and 11th UCSC hosted UCSA for our monthly board meeting. We hosted the Saturday meeting at Cervantes and Velasquez and on Sunday at Porter Dining Hall. On Saturday Assemblymember Mark Stone came and spoke to UCSA board, we had a great discussion about Higher Education funding and prison spending. We're looking forward to meeting with him with lobby corp to further the discussions. For this meeting we were able to suspend our bylaws in order to waive the dues for the UCD undergrad and UCLA grad associations for the remainder of the year, with the understanding that both associations will become dues paying members starting next year. UCD was in attendance and fully joined as voting members for the remainder of our meeting. During the meeting we had a training from SAFE to help facilitate action on the UConsent campaign. We also passed a Resolution to support the Black Lives Matter campaign presented by UCB Grad EAVP Iman Sylvain and UCR COD Breana Ross. For a detailed account of all items discussed at our January BOD, minutes can be found online at [ucsa.org](http://ucsa.org).

### **Lobby Corp**

During our January lobby corp meetings we discussed bills introduced into this years legislative cycle. The governor's budget was introduced early January and showed no increase to the UC budget that would prevent next year's tuition increase. In order to have our lobby corp members practice their lobbying skills we held a debate regarding the UC and California budget. The two teams in the debate represented Jerry Brown's and Janet Napolitano's perspective respectively. Debates proved to be a great way for lobby corp members to actively engage and practice advocacy for the issues.

### **Meeting with Executive Vice Chancellor Alyson Galloway**

On January 21st the officer core met with EVC Galloway about a variety of issues ranging from the tuition increase, cultural competency, the seismic retrofit, to the sexual assault task force. My questions with Galloway centered on the tuition increase, task force policy implementation, and student travel reimbursements from UCOP. EVC Galloway was able to shed light on how the budget cuts would affect UCSC particularly and we were able to point out to her how we felt areas of campus such as classrooms and specific dorms were being neglected. She asked for suggestions about where investments into task force allocated funds would be best spent, and wanted input on what services were not being particularly utilized around campus to reconsider their budgets. In regards to travel reimbursements, she said she would advocate to UCOP about being more responsive and adhering to the set standard reimbursement timeline.

### **Meeting with Larry Paegler, Director of TAPS**

On Friday January 23rd Ray Inoue (Director of Local Affairs), Simba Khadder, and I met with Larry Paegler and Susan Willats from TAPS. We wanted to follow up on TAPS' budget deficit and asked questions about night owl service, metro routes, and parking enforcement. Simba has been building a bus tracking app and reached out to me for assistance getting in contact with TAPS and for support on his project. We were able to get permission from Larry to put Simba's bus tracking prototypes on the busses and hopefully a beta version of the app can be released later in the year. Larry also agreed to help get us in touch with Metro to discuss later routes for route 10, increased weekend service, and the upcoming route that will past safeway.

### **Meeting with Councilmember David Terrazas**

On the evening of Friday January 23rd SUA Chair Justin and I met with city council member David Terrazas. We discussed university and city relations and how to improve student interactions with the local community. David wants to start a fellowship/internship program for UCSC students with local agencies and my office will hopefully be working on its implementation. The biggest concerns Justin and I shared with David were regarding transportation, the housing crisis, and safety/lighting around Santa Cruz. David agreed to come speak at SUA sometime in February to hear student concerns.

### **Student Regent Visit**

On January 26th the Student Regents visited UCSC to meet with student leaders and outreach for Student Regent Applications. The officer core joined the student regents, administration, and chancellors at the Chancellor's house for lunch where we had a discussion on the tuition increase, student advocacy, and a few other issues. We were able to point out to the student regents how UCSC has different needs that can be addressed at the regental level, such as allocations for facility improvements that have been given to other UCs, but not recently to UCSC. The graduate students were able to bring up the issues about engaging their demographic at a regental level, especially in regards to alternative compensation for PhD students who might have tuition and fees covered, but not housing or other expenses in order to appeal to other potential student regent candidates. I brought up the issue of student travel and reimbursement, and how other universities like UCM and the student regents themselves are given travel credit cards so the funds for travel are directly covered by their associations or the Regents and not put up front by students themselves, limiting accessibility. This received good feedback and hopefully we'll see a change in policy in the future.

### **Local Affairs**

Local Affairs Director Ray Inoue has been transitioning this quarter and is working projects including transportation, city council relations, and hopefully an event on campus sometime this spring.

### **Tax Preparation Program**

Unfortunately the tax preparation program is experiencing complications. VITA needs to go through another certification process for the campus and with a new director, it seems unlikely that they will have the capacity to make UCSC a VITA site this year. Their student lead, however, is still really interested in making the program work and we will try to work out alternatives or make it so the program is possible next year.

### **Winter Quarter Outreach**

The External Affairs week of Engagement wasn't a huge success. I don't think workshops are the best way to get interested students engaged in the issues. Perhaps its time to focus on media outreach and bringing presentations to groups rather than holding our own. I will work with COD Guillermo Rogel and Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Andres Pinedo for alternative and more effective forms of engagement.

### **Reviews and Areas of Improvement**

Following a busy start to the quarter, the office is finally working at full capacity with all interns hired and their projects underway Unfortunately theres been a general slow down in activity with External Affairs issues. Its been difficult to engage students in the various issues and campaigns such as the tuition increase, UConsent, and IGNITE. Their has been rising tensions between student government and student groups regarding organizing around these issues, but hopefully we will be able to collaborate, come to agreement, and acknowledge our strengths and roles in making sure that the student voice is not silenced or divided in this crucial time where solidarity is essential.

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

Sincerely,

Louise Cabansay  
External Vice Chair