

## **November 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 UC Merced**

On November 8-9 the monthly UCSA EOB meeting was held during the students of color conference at UCM. This meeting was shortened due to the conference. We discussed the contentious issue of Divestment from companies profiting off of Palestine in the form of a resolution presented to the board. This resolution will be debated on during the January 10-11 Board meeting on our campus. I am working to secure a large enough venue to host this event seeing as we will more than likely have many members of the public attending this meeting. I will also hold extended office hours from when we return from break to the actual meeting date in order to receive feedback from students. I will require the other UCSC UCSA board members, Guillermo Rogel, Maria Aguirre, and Gabriel Douglas to do the same.

Also at this meeting we discussed the proposed UC tuition hike. We discussed our plans of action at our individual campuses and also collectively at the UCSF Regents Meeting. For our StAR (student advocate to the Regents) appointments, we chose members of the board and council of presidents to represent the student voice at these very important meetings. We also worked with the unions and alumni to bring a large collective of dissenting voices to the meeting.

### **Meeting w/ Regent Kiefer**

External Vice Presidents (Chair in my case) from all the UCs, both grad and undergrad, had a meeting with Regent Kiefer prior to the Regents meeting. Regent Kiefer has been one of the more student friendly Regents on the board, but held firm on his support of the tuition hike. He explained to us the budget of the UC due to state disinvestment. We agreed that the state has been largely responsible for UC budget crisis, but disagreed that raising tuition and putting the burden on students was the solution. During this meeting we were able to highlight some campus specific problems, and for myself and Rebecca Ora (GSA EVP) we focused on the crumbling infrastructure at UCSC in regards to housing, classroom facilities, student services, and academic departments. Our campus has been on this model of constant growth, increasing the student population, without maintaining our current facilities or expanding to accommodate. This has left very apparent impacts on the quality of our education and the general climate of the campus, especially in regards to student well-being and mental health. Kiefer promised help us address this issue to President Napolitano, the Board of Regents, and our Chancellor. It was very enlightening to have a candid conversation with a Regents and even though our stances on the tuition increase did not change, we had a productive discussion.

## **FundtheUC and Tuition Hikes**

The EVC office worked this month with the campus coalitions to address the tuition hike proposed by the regents. We helped to plan the marches and the rallies. We also fund raised through the SUA and with the unions on funding for sending charter busses to the UCSF Regents meeting where they discussed and approved the policy. My office purchased rally and poster-making supplies for the actions and distributed them. We specifically worked to rally the campus and help hold informational sessions about the current state of UC funding and what students could do about it. There have been some issues regarding the role of student government and direct action, especially regarding decision making and planning. I understand that this mistrust of student government has roots in the general historical misuse of institutionalized power (regarding all institutions, not just student run ones) and the low impact and visibility that SUA has had to its own student body. As an office, we have respectfully stood back on campus direct actions, but will continue to provide resource and participate as individuals and where we can collectively as an office. For now, the office will focus on informing the student body and legislative action.

## **External Office Staff Transition and Development**

The National Affairs Director (Arturo Motta) has been hired. I am considering re-opening the applications for the Local Affairs Director in order to widen the applicant pool. The other interns are in the process of transitioning to their rolls and have been assigned projects and tasks to work on for the rest of the quarter. Next month we will be conducting some long range planning on the various aspects and projects of the office in order to make the most out of winter and spring quarter. I will also be requiring the interns to submit monthly reports, available to the public like my own, for transparency purposes and for the interns themselves to showcase their work.

## **Lobby Corp**

The office has been holding lobby corp meetings on Wednesdays from 8-10pm in the Cervantes and Velasquez Conference Room. On November 12th we had a presentation from UCSA's legislative director Sean Connelly. He went over the CA legislature's legislative and budget cycle especially in relation to the UC Budget and tuition policy. During the month myself and the Legislative Liaisons started long term planning for lobby corp. There are going to be periodic debates on the different bills, issues, and campaigns we are undertaking for the year. Other ideas included regular lobby visits, trips to sacramento, and attending local city council meetings.

## **Campaigns**

### **IGNITE/State of Emergency**

Proposition 47 was passed by voters during the Nov 4th election. The ballot measure will reduce certain drug and non violent crimes from felonies to misdemeanors, while also redirecting funds from corrections to schools, rehabilitation, and mental health services.

- Moving forward in the campaign at the UCSA level we are looking into setting concrete goals for the year. So far we are looking into following and tracking Prop 47 implementation, especially tracking the flow of funds generated. Also proposed is a follow up with Speaker Toni Atkins and the Legislative Caucus Chairs about a bill

regarding Affirmative Action in CA higher education, institutionalizing the IGNITE campaign, and general outreach and education about the campaign on a campus by campus level.

- Campus level goals:
  - Outreach, education, & coalition building
  - Research: Partnering w/ faculty and graduate students who have done/are doing research regarding diversity and higher education
  - Start drafting points for an affirmative action bill and/or UC policies that can be implemented (using research mentioned above).
  - Urge Chancellor or department heads to draft letter of support, highlighting the difficulties of fostering diversity in a post prop 209 environment.
- The point person for this campaign on staff will be Guillermo Rogel, Andres Pinedo, Arturo Motta, and myself.

### **UConsent/Sexual Assault Prevention on College Campuses**

We are currently collaborating with SAFE to host their annual Violence Prevention Convention in the spring. Our office has pledged to partially fund the event and to help seek funding sources for this program and our other joint initiatives.

### **Other Projects:**

#### **Free Tax Prep Program:**

The office is collaborating with VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) an IRS certified program to make UCSC a VITA site. This will allow students to file and submit their taxes in a timely manner before the March 2nd FAFSA deadline, maximizing financial aid potential. We are planning to have 5-6 tax preparation days throughout the end of January and entirety of February. We will also be working to collaborate with other units on campus to make this program also incorporate other resources, such as financial aid, etc. Next steps include budget setting, fundraising, recruitment, and certification of volunteers.

#### **Local Affairs & City Council Relations (& Local Affairs Festival)**

Since a local affairs director hasn't been hired yet, I have assigned Maria and myself to bottom line the local affairs projects. The LLs have compiled bios of the newly elected members of city council and will be presenting them at a future lobby corp meeting. We hope to schedule meetings with these representatives in order to address student concerns and to improve city-campus relations. Also included in the goals moving forward is the preliminary planning for the local affairs festival to be held early spring quarter.

#### • **Proposed Projects from student body at large**

- A few projects have come either to the SUA, EVC office, or Lobby Corps that I would like to help move forward. We are currently looking into the feasibility of a campus video tour (highlighting the needs & state of the campus), GPS tracking devices of busses, and a crowd source funding project to address a campus need.

## **Review & Areas of Improvement**

It has been much easier to complete work for the office with the help of staff. This month was especially busy with the unforeseen tuition hikes and the following call to action required. However, I think we rose to the occasion as best we could. The mistrust of student organizers of their student government didn't surprise me as much as it did other student leaders, but it was disappointing nonetheless. I will do my best to be transparent as possible as an officer and to make sure my office works in collaboration with the protestors, whether that be in planning or providing resources.

## **Student Union Assembly Review**

I've had to miss two SUA meetings this month due to EVC commitments such as attending the UC Regents meeting and other obligations as an RA and student. In the meetings I have attended this month and the rest of the quarter, I have noticed a general improvement from last years body to to this one. More member are speaking up and the discussions are meaningful and productive. I know both representatives and members of the public had voiced concerns about feeling unsafe in the space last year, and I hope the efforts the officer collective to make the space safe and productive are working. However, I have been concerned about the way some members are interacting and speaking with each other and I hope we will revisit community guidelines soon in order to address this issue before it becomes something larger.

I worry about the disconnect I'm starting to see from the officer group. I think we interact fine individually and as a collective, but most of the work we are doing has been largely independent and without much cross collaborating or support with each other. I recognize that I havent made that large of an effort to collaborate with other officers on either my own or their projects, but looking into the next quarter I hope to do my part to change that.

## **Outreach and Engagement**

We had a little more visibility (good and bad) during this month due to the tuition hike actions, but we can do better. I know the Organizing Director is conducting college tours and visiting all the senates. I think this is a great idea and will push to do something similar next quarter along with other outreach efforts. We've circulated UCSA's campus by campus legislative feedback form through social media in order to better advocate for students at that level, but judging by the low turn out, the office needs to do more. Outreach and engagement will be one of our top priorities next quarter.

For any questions, comments, or concerns about my activities for November 2014 please do not hesitate to contact me at [suaevc@ucsc.edu](mailto:suaevc@ucsc.edu).

Sincerely,

Louise Cabansay  
External Vice Chair