

## **October 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.

### **VOTE 2014**

During the month of October it became evident that we would fall short of our goal of 4,000 registered voters by the October 20th registration deadline. We had been registering students to vote via dorm storming, clip boarding, and class wraps. Our attempts to build coalitions worked well with Calpirg and Democrats (note: non-partisan registration requirements and training were emphasized), but fell short in recruitment of other student organizations. Overall, it seemed that our difficulties were mainly due to a few specific factors. For one, the late start of the school year, left us with less time to build coalitions and register students as opposed to 2012. Also, the context of a midterm election with minimal student interest centered ballot initiatives made it so less students were incentivized to vote in comparison to 2012 with Prop 30. Lastly, the lack of the VOTE Coordinator dedicated to this campaign might have stifled its success. As the VOTE 2012 coordinator and in working with the vote coordinator of the previous year, it seemed as if the position was useful, but due to the constraints of the SUA budget and larger scope of the office, it seemed better split the duties of the VOTE coordinator among other interns of the EVC office. However, due to this years turn out that might not be the case. I will recommend to my successor to devote resources to hire a specified VOTE intern, but will probably also caution them to hire this intern for only summer and fall quarter. I will work to make sure a more thorough VOTE campaign guide is created for future EVCs to follow and learn from so one day we do surpass our goals and break records.

### **Intern Hires**

Towards the end of October and early November I finished the hiring processes for the positions of Campus Organizing Director (Guillermo Rogel), Outreach and Engagement Coordinator (Andres Pinedo), and two Legislative Liaisons (Maria Aguirre and Gabriel Douglas). This process took a more time anticipated, mainly due to constructing and coordinating hiring committees to ensure a fair review and interview process. In November I plan to hire the National Affairs and Local Affairs Directors.

### **Lobby Corp**

The office has been holding lobby corp meetings on Wednesdays from 8-10pm in the Cervantes and Velasquez Conference Room. Currently we've been going over the VOTE campaign and holding informational sessions about the context of our current campaigns, history of external affairs (especially UCSA and USSA work) and what we will need to do moving forward. On October 29th we had a guest Alexandra Flores Quilty, USSA's Vice President come speak to lobby corp about USSA's history and the current state of its campaigns in regards to legislation. On November 12th we will have UCSA's Sean Connelly give a presentation of California's Legislative and Budget Process. To date, Lobby Corp has been largely informative and lecture

based with guest speakers, but I hope this will change with the hire of our two Legislative Liaisons.

### **UCSA October Board Meeting at UCSD**

On October 11-12th UCSA's BoD met at UCSD. During this meeting we received updates on the VOTE campaigns going on at each campus (all campuses except UCSB seemed to be having the same difficulties), received an update from UCOP Financial Analyst Patrick Lenz, planned the next steps for IGNITE and UConsent, and planned the FUNDtheUC action for SOCC. What was evident in this meeting was UCSA's difficulties reaching out to UCOP and the Regents. Many of our appointed student observers and system wide committee reps have yet to be confirmed despite the fact that many of these committees were already in session, thus students were left unable to participate. Currently we are working to correct this issue and improve relations. At this meeting I presented the UCSHIP Student Caucus membership, plans for the year, and introduced our staff Liaison Taylor A. Bright. As the UCSC undergraduate representative for UCSHIP and board member of UCSA, I wanted to create a partnership between the two organizations. UCSHIP is currently working out the implementation of the ACA, assessing mental health insurance coverage, and addressing the issue of mandatory reporting while protecting undocumented students.

### **UCSA & USSA Campaign Updates**

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

- During the month of October we pushed for the passed of Prop 47, the ballot measure that would reduce certain drug and non violent crimes from felonies to misdemeanors, while also redirecting funds from corrections to schools, rehabilitation, and mental health services. The initiative passed.
- 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.

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

- Collaboration with SAFE: At UCSC we are collaborating with SAFE (Sexual Assault Facts and Education) to bring the UConsent campaign to UCSC. We are currently planning a training for EVC staff and volunteers with SAFE to make sure we are as equipped and informed on the issues of sexual assault, reporting, survivor support, consent, title IX, and beyond.

- Currently we are exploring collaboration and sponsorship of a spring violence prevention convention and the creation of bystander awareness videos to be played during the Safe Slugs mandatory orientation.

### **Other Projects:**

- **Free Tax Prep Program:**
  - Preliminary dates, timeline mapping, and possible collaborators have been hashed out for the free tax prep program that the EVC office will launch beginning winter quarter. We are aiming for 6 different dates between mid January and the End of February to have the tax prep program. Next steps include budget setting, fundraising, recruitment, and certification of volunteers.
- **Local Affairs & City Council Relations (& Local Affairs Festival)**
  - At the end of the November Elections we will know who will make up Santa Cruz's City Council for the coming term. I have tasked the LLs to compile bio's of the current city council in relation to their priorities that most affect students. I plan to task the Local Affairs Director with maintaining the communication between these officials and to also organize meetings with the representatives, including taking a delegation of students to city council meetings. Also included in the goals moving forward is the preliminary planning for the local affairs festival to be held late winter/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**

Fall quarter is officially in full swing. The most pressing issues I've found affecting my own abilities as an officer and overall External Affairs Office performance this quarter was the multitude of office initiatives combined with a small EVC staff base. Moving forward with intern hires and volunteer recruitment and development I hope to transform the efficiencies of the office to meet campaign and project goals while catering to the needs of the student body and developing leadership in those working on the issues.

**VOTE:** Despite all the planning and preparation that went into this year's vote campaign, we haven't been able to reach registration goals. This pattern was seen across all the UCs, whose common denominators include shorter registration intervals and midterm election ballot initiatives. I also know we didn't push as much online voter registration this year in comparison to 2012, which could have been another factor. Students could have also registered to vote on their own or thought that their 2012 registration still held. Moving forward, I will note in my transition the Do's and Don'ts for this registration drive and possible improvements that might have boosted results.

**Outreach & Engagement:** I haven't been meeting with student organizations and college governments as I would like. This has hampered coalition building and the effectiveness of EVC campaigns since we are currently targeting the same student base (mostly student

government). I hope with the hiring of my Outreach & Engagement Coordinator and the end of the VOTE campaign we can begin to focus on working with the student body and making sure that the office is truly address and advocating for the needs of UCSC students.

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

Sincerely,

Louise Cabansay  
External Vice Chair