

Student Union Assembly

SUA Mailstop: SOAR, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz CA 95064 • P: 831.459.4838
suapres@ucsc.edu • sua.ucsc.edu

Dear Student Union Assembly,

Under my duties as President of the Student Union Assembly and Article III Section A.1 of the SUA Constitution, I present my August 2015 monthly report and evaluation to the Assembly.

Council of the Presidents Retreat -

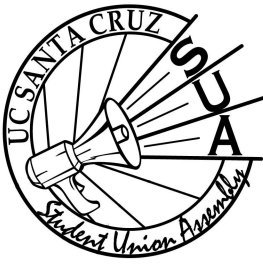
- The Council of Presidents (CP) is a UC-wide organization made up of the undergraduate and graduate student government presidents from all of the UC campuses. All of the UC Presidents attended a retreat that was an invaluable resource. I was able to connect with other Presidents, hear how student government worked on their campus, and get valuable information on the history of the group. I was also able to get resources on UC policy, initiatives, and guidelines from the Student Regent.
- We also discussed having more retreats in the future with the purpose of connecting on cross-campus issues and seeing how we can learn and grow from the examples other campuses set. Housing, the Global Food Initiative, mental health, and college affordability were some of the topics discussed. Unfortunately, the SUA budget cannot accommodate more travel for the President to go on future retreats. I drove rather than flew in an attempt to save money, but the cost still soaked up a majority of the President/Chair Travel budget. For future retreats I will likely just call or skype in to participate.
- For the year, we plan to meet with UC President, Janet Napolitano at least three times. It will likely be at least once a quarter.

USSA Conference -

- I attended the United States Student Association National Student Congress. The workshops and trainings were great resources that can be brought back to UCSC in various ways. Connecting with other student leaders from across the country was inspiring. It would be good if we could take more students in the future to provide feedback on the campaigns and discuss implementing them on our campus. It was a great learning experience and demonstrated how students are much more powerful when they work together and build cross-country coalitions. There is a lot we can learn from other campuses and student leaders.

UCSA Conference -

- I also attended the University of California Student Association Congress. This was a good conference and provided a lot of insight to internal UC politics and state politics. It was good to learn more about the organization. This group represents students statewide and to the UC Office of the President. More students need to be aware and connected to UCSA so we can have a strong representation at the state level.



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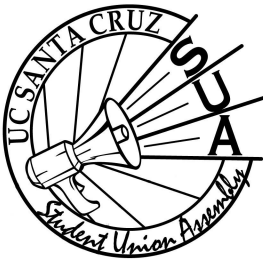
- It was a larger delegation than USSA Congress and I believe more clear community guidelines could have been beneficial. Not all attendees participated in the entire conference and not all delegates were comfortable with the space. I received several concerns and complaints. For the future, it would be best to establish better policies and have more delegation leaders to assist in keeping students safe and comfortable.
- For improvement, I think it would be best if we had selection criteria that targeted students who already did impressive work on campus than incoming students. In order for students to represent UCSC externally, I feel they should be more involved with campus life and have a better connection to the student body.
- I think there is a stigma that conferences only benefit the students who go to the conferences. I believe this is not true. Having a say in state-wide and nation-wide politics is so valuable for our campus, and it is great for students to be able to bring that back to our campus. For example, at UCSA many students who went to the conference seemed interested in getting involved with the campaign when they come back to UCSC in the Fall. Also, for conferences like the Student of Color Conference, I think it is important to acknowledge that our campus is stronger when our students of color feel supported and have been trained in great leadership skills. Conferences are so valuable for that experience.
- Both of the hotels we stayed at for UCSA and USSA had no wi-fi. Since I was essentially out of town for two weeks straight at Council of the Presidents and these two conferences, I had a lot of emailing to catch up on. For the future, I recommend we find hotels with wi-fi. It helps with students who are currently taking classes as well over the summer and have online coursework to submit.

Transition and Moving -

- At this time, we have new emails, the office is mostly clean and set up for the school year, our printer is set up, and we have a phone. We still need a ramp to the office and we need the cages taken off the windows. Other than that, transition is going smoothly and the office is ready for a great year. This office is larger and hopefully students utilize the space. When we move back into the old office, it would be good to evaluate the space and make it more welcoming to interns and representatives to work.

Global Food Initiative -

- I have still been attending meetings with the Global Food Initiative. The program is going great. We are looking to bring the Farmer's Market Cart to Science Hill rather than the base of campus. They are hiring interns to work on food security issues. They are also hiring graduate student researchers to begin researching food resources and food habits on campus. After the school year starts, I am interested in exploring the possibility of a food festival on the OPERS field to connect students to local restaurants and expose more students to Santa Cruz. I would like to do this in collaboration with the organizations that are often selling food as fundraisers in the Quarry. It would be great if



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we had one large event where those organizations could fundraise, students could buy cheap food, and local restaurants could advertise and sell food. I believe this could be done with food being sold at a lower cost.

Officer Trainings -

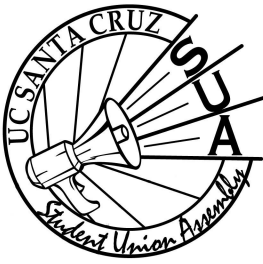
- Trying to schedule Officer Trainings is incredibly difficult. Each Officer has their own projects going on throughout the year and their own personal lives that require travel. The schedule conflicts make it difficult to find a time that accommodates all six Officers and an expert staff to train in a certain area. Trainings for this year originally included: fair hiring, facilitation, delegation, team building, strategic planning, diversity training. Most of these trainings had to be cancelled due to schedule conflicts and last minute travel plans of Officers. In addition, there was no funding for trainings that required an expert facilitator.
- It would be interesting to explore the possibility of the previous year's Assembly and Officers scheduling trainings in advanced that incoming Officers have to attend to maintain their position. There was a bylaw amendment this year that requires Officers to participate in a diversity training, and I believe it would be beneficial to expand that to other trainings. I plan to help with trainings next summer.

City Council Meetings

- I have attended several City Council Meetings this summer. I think this is a great way to get to know what is happening in the community. It is harder for off-campus students to connect to the SUA, so my hope is to find points of connection. Also, I think it is good to understand what is happening in the city to potentially help improve the relationship with the city and the campus. Unfortunately, City Council Meetings are on Tuesday nights so I will not be attending once Assembly meetings start.
- Students have a bad reputation and are blamed for the housing situation in Santa Cruz. I think collaborating with City Council on an event in the future would be a good idea to help improve the image we have as students. The Good Neighbor Initiative would also be a good unit to collaborate on that.

Dean of Students Meeting

- The Officers met with Alma Sifuentes, the Dean of Students. SUA is currently under the Dean of Students Office. Sifuentes is the supervisor for the SUA and the SUA Advisor. We touched base on the projects each of the Officers is working on and heard what the Dean of Students Office is doing. I believe it would be beneficial to have more interaction between the Dean of Students and other campus administrators with the Assembly and the Student Body. It would be interesting to explore the idea of having a meet-and-greet with all of the Administrators so students could find out more about what Administration does. It would also help Administrators find out what issues are actually relevant to students. There is not enough interaction between Admin and students.



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Admissions meeting

- I was asked to meet with UCSC Admissions to tell them about student life and the student experience. I presented about the SUA, as well as college government, ethnic organizations, and other organizations on campus. I explained to them that student organizations not only provide excellent work experience, but they also allow students the chance to be part of their university in an experience that is beyond just the usual student experience. Student organizations are a form of retention and getting students involved with student life often helps them stay in school and have a successful academic experience. When speaking to potential students, I encouraged them to share how UCSC is a politically active campus and had a unique culture.

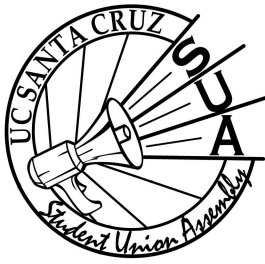
Housing Project

- I have done a lot of research this month on the housing policies in Santa Cruz. A lot of my time was devoted to reading policy, researching campus decision makers, and emailing various players about questions I had. My plan is to host a campus town hall in the Fall to allow students to talk about the issues, and build an action research team of undergraduate students to come up with solutions to the issues. I have found a few faculty and lecturers who would be interested in collaborating with students on coming up with solutions to the housing issues.

Constitution and Bylaws

- There are a lot of edits to the Bylaws and Constitution. I have been reading and taking notes on paper copies while at the conference since there was no wi-fi. I believe I have a pretty large list of things that need to be edited. Some of it is just grammatical, some of it will likely take an ad-hoc committee to interpret and propose suggestions to the assembly this Fall.

Date:	Time In:	Time Out:	Total time (Hrs)	Location	Brief description
August 1st			All day	UC Riverside	Council of the Presidents Retreat
August 2st			All day	UC Riverside	Council of the Presidents Retreat and travel to Santa Cruz
August 3rd	9:30 am	12:00 pm	2.5 hours	Office	Pres Office hours, reviewing CoP materials
August 3rd	2:30 pm	3:30 pm	1 hour	Long Marine Center	Meeting with UCSC Admissions
August 3rd	3:30 pm	4:30 pm	1 hour	Office	EVP check in before travel
August 4th	2:30 pm	3:30 pm	1 hour	Office	Bylaw meeting with Seamus



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August 5th			All day	UNLV	USSA Congress
August 6th			All day	UNLV	USSA Congress
August 7th			All day	UNLV	USSA Congress
August 8th			All day	UNLV	USSA Congress
August 9th			All day	UNLV	USSA Congress
August 10th			All day	UNLV	USSA Congress
August 11th	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	2 hours	City Council	Housing Study Session at City Council
August 13th			All day	Irvine	UCSA Congress
August 14th			All day	Irvine	UCSA Congress
August 15th			All day	Irvine	UCSA Congress
August 16th			All day	Irvine	UCSA Congress
August 18th	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	1 hour	DoS Office	SUA Touch Base with DoS
August 18th	6:00 pm	9:00 pm	3 hours	Office	Catching up on emails
August 19th	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	2 hours	Home	Researching University policy rules on travel and alcohol/drug use on student fee-sponsored events
August 20th	9:00 am	2:00 pm	5 hours	Office	Catching up with SUA work, checking in with advisor, getting printer set up
August 24th	12:00 pm	2:00 pm	2 hours	Office	Checking in with advisor on university policy and student fees and bring back from UCSA
August 25th	10:00 am	11:00 am	1 hour	Office	Check in with SUA advisor on UCSA Congress
August 27th	11:00 am	12:00 pm	1 hour	Office	Officer Meeting

This is a summary report for August 2015. If there are any questions, concerns, or thoughts, feel free to contact me at suapres@ucsc.edu.

Cheers,
 Julie Rachel Foster
 SUA President