

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 October 2015 monthly report and evaluation to the Assembly.

DRC Training, Infoview Training, and Fair Hiring Training -

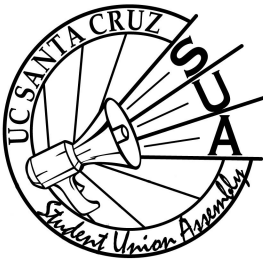
- In addition to the Officer retreat last month, I had us do a few other more direct trainings.
- We did a training with a student from the Disability Resource Center. They reviewed best practices with font sizes, styles, and colors to ensure those with visual or reading disabilities can easily read our flyers and emails. In addition, they reviewed policies to ensure we were meeting the accommodation needs of students this year. They also went over resources available for students and potential ways of collaborating.
- Our Fair Hiring training should have happened as soon as we took office, if not sooner, so we could start hiring right away. However, it had to be cancelled and rescheduled several times. We finally had it in October and reviewed all of the best hiring practices, how to be fair, and how not to discriminate. It helps to better understand how to eliminate unconscious bias. I think this is vital for any student hiring another student to ensure we are fair and not just hiring friends. It is important to be accountable to the entire student body.
- We also did a training on Infoview, which is just the system we use to check SUA financials. This training could be much more clear, and I think it would be best for me to train next year's President more directly.
- I would have liked for these to happen sooner in the summer, but the SUA Advisor had a hard time scheduling these trainings with so many Officers travelling for work, school or vacation.

Career Center Meeting -

- The Career Center asked to meet with me to discuss outreach to the student body, professional development, and the projects they are working on. I believe they want help from the SUA on advocating for a check-out system for graduating students. Meaning, all students would be required to report what their post-college plans are so we know how well we have prepared our student body for the "real world." I will consider advocating for this.

SUA Budget and Researching Student Fees -

- I spent some time reviewing Measure 8, the Campus-Wide Student Government Fee. It is \$7 per a student per a quarter, and this is what gives SUA funding. I wanted to ensure we were using our funding in accordance to the purpose the student body voted to give us funding. I also reviewed the SCOC Measure.
- I looked at other fees as well, and I find it interesting that some fees (not SUA fees) are not being used how I feel they were supposed to be used. I also feel SUA is supposed to



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be more involved in the allocation of these fees. I think we will investigate this further this year.

Recording Clerk and Treasurer Interviews -

- I hired a Recording Clerk and I selected a Treasurer to be confirmed by the Assembly. And this was done by fair hiring practices. It would be nice if the Assembly did not have to confirm these positions so they could start right away. Otherwise I could have hired sooner.

AFT Union Check In -

- I got in contact with the AFT Union because I was curious about their contract negotiations. They were negotiating for a new contract, so I reached out to one of the organizers. We met to go over the struggles with the contract renewable and they gave me some facts and figures about the UCSC campus. This is a particularly important issue for students to be aware of because it directly affects their education. I wrote a resolution that got passed by the Assembly. I also gave a speech during the contract negotiations to explain that students support the Lecturers.

Beach Flats Garden -

- Student organizers affiliated with the Beach Flats Garden reached out to me for more support from the student body. I wrote a resolution that got passed by the Assembly to show solidarity with that movement. I think it is really important for students to be engaged in off-campus issues since this is essentially a debate of gentrification, which UCSC arguably caused.

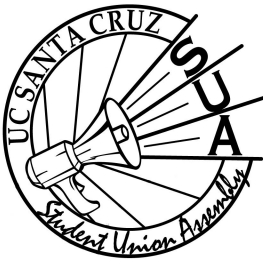
SUA Budget -

- SUA had a carryforward of approximately \$90,000. We cut a lot of budget items last year because they assumed a \$0 carryforward. I presented a budget to reinvest in some of those line items, and also to put the rest into a reserve fund and programming budget. The Assembly has not yet approved the budget. I began going to Senate meetings to present the budget and explain it to more people for transparency.
- There are a lot of confusing expenses showing up on infoview, expenses that I never approved. I am reviewing these to figure out where the problems came from. There were also a lot of expenses that were not closed out after the close of last fiscal year.

Slug Parade and Expo -

- The Santa Cruz City Mayor, Don Lane, asked me to give a speech and accept some statement on behalf of the University at the Slug Parade and Expo. I think this program was an attempt to rebuild the relationship with the city after the protest events last year. It was fun, and I was able to put the SUA name out there more on a citywide level. However, I am not sure how effective this was at rebuilding relations. Don Lane also gave me a pillow with a dragon-banana slug on it. I will be passing this down to the next SUA President as a legacy item.

<http://www.cityonahillpress.com/2015/11/01/banana-slugs-take-the-streets/>



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SUA Meetings -

- We began SUA meetings this quarter. The SUA advisor went around all summer looking for a space. We agreed to move around from quarter to quarter to get more connected to different parts of the student body on campus. We will be in Oakes all of Fall Quarter.
- We also decided on Community Agreements for the SUA meetings. I hope these help the space, although I am afraid people will forget in the future.
- I met several times with the Parliamentarian to go over Robert's Rules and how to do a workshop for better understanding with the Assembly. I dislike Robert's Rules and wish we did something different to make the space more accommodating for those who did not make it to the workshop. For example, I want students who are not part of SUA to be able to bring things to the meetings. I do not know why we need the Robert's Rules.

SUA Advisor -

- This month, I worked with the SUA Advisor to ensure they received all the trainings necessary to maintain a healthy budget and know university policy. Unfortunately, they have not been able to get these trainings from the Dean of Students Office and I am worried about the SUA financials if we do not clear this up soon.

Student Fee Advisory Committee -

- I sit on the Student Fee Advisory Committee for now. I might consider putting someone in to represent me in the future, but this body allocates a lot of student money and that gives insight to what else is happening on this university. I am in one of the few positions to be in multiple different meetings that can bring together a full few of all campus projects.

Student Success Steering Committee -

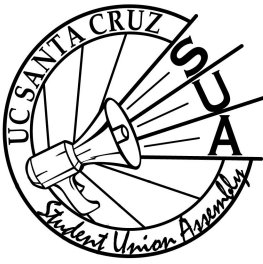
- I went to my first Student Success Steering Committee. The Student Success Division is new to the campus and is supposed to be working on student retention. The Vice Provost oversees SOAR, Retention Services, and several other units that directly relate to student life. So far, they are really just doing updates on projects they launch each year to retain students. It is very data-driven.

Office Hours -

- I had one friend come to my Office Hours because I requested they visit me since I was bored. Other than that, no one has attended. I have a lot of meetings with students outside of my Office Hours, and I go to other meetings to hear more from the student body. I think Office Hours are ineffective. Asking students to come to me will never work, it is more important that I continue going to other organization meetings.

Student Academic Senate and Student Committee on Committees -

- I have been going to both Student Academic Senate (SAS) and Student Committee on Committees (SCOC) for this month to ensure they are going to succeed this year. SCOC seems resistant to change from last year, and I think they could benefit a lot from rewriting their bylaws. I think it would be good if they did more outreach to the student body and advertised more.



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Student Union Governance Board -

- I sit on the Student Union Governance Board (SUGB). This board oversees the measure that goes to the Student Union, Redwood, and Student Media buildings. I think this is an important body to be in touch with this year because of the building being retrofitted right now. I hope we can work together to ensure student spaces are protected this year.

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

Cheers,
Julie Rachel Foster
SUA President