

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 September 2015 monthly report and evaluation to the Assembly.

Scheduling meetings with EVC and Chancellor -

- At the start of the month I began requesting meetings with the Executive Vice Chancellor, Alison Galloway, and the Chancellor, George Blumenthal. Surprisingly, it was very easy to get on both of their calendars because their assistants. I was able to schedule quarterly meetings with Galloway and monthly meetings with the Chancellor. As well as meetings for all of the SUA Officers to meet with Galloway and the Chancellor. These meetings will happen throughout the year as a way to connect the SUA to the Administration. I will be informing the Administration on what SUA is working on and see how they can answer questions we have and provide resources so we can achieve our goals.

Bus Stop Backboards -

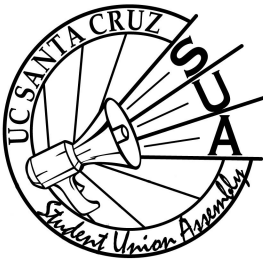
- It was brought up by one of the Officers that the backboards at the bus stops have so many staples in them that it is hard to flyer. This is a problem for student organizations since they use these boards for outreach, and it is a sustainability concern since flyers fall off and create litter. I contacted TAPS to see if they could replace these boards. They said they would be rolling out all new posting boards in about 18 months. For now, they agreed to update the boards. TAPS said they would update the Science Hill, Health Center, and East Remote stops in a clockwise direction within the next month. They will eventually replace all the posting boards, but it will take the whole year to get it done.

Alumni Office -

- The Alumni Office requested a meeting with the SUA Officers to discuss their initiatives and how to better connect with the student body and the Assembly. We talked about the goals of SUA for the year, and they updated me on their projects. They are starting a mentorship program to connect alumni and students. I am now looking into planning a student government alumni event for Alumni Weekend in the Spring. I think it is beneficial to have that relationship with the Alumni Office.

Fair Hiring and Job Descriptions -

- I asked the SUA Advisor to schedule a fair hiring training with Staff HR and the Officers. To ensure the student body that our intern hiring process is fair and open to all students, I wanted to make sure everyone understood fair hiring guidelines and best practices. I also asked him to collect the job descriptions for the interns to get those posted. That process should be done by the end of September. Fair hiring is also a good practice to know about for selecting delegations for conferences. I think this workshop/training should happen



Student Union Assembly

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

every year for Officers. We have an obligation to be fair to the student body and ensure that all students have an equal opportunity, but there are a lot of best practices involved in that and Officers should be made aware of that every year.

One day Officer Retreat -

- We had an Officer Retreat. I had to get funding from outside the SUA for this retreat. I think it is really beneficial for the SUA to have retreats. I would have liked for us to do a longer retreat for team building and trainings, but unfortunately it is really difficult to schedule with all of the Officers since everyone is so busy. I would like to do a retreat with the Assembly in the future so we can do workshops and trainings on skillsets that would be beneficial to student leaders. I also think it would be good so we can review the constitution and bylaws. It would really make people more engaged with the space.

Housing Project -

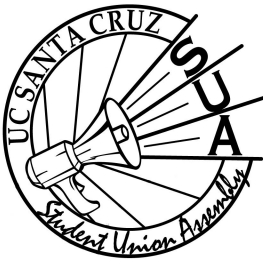
- The housing project I am working on is going well. I have done a lot of research on housing in Santa Cruz and the different organizations in the area working on housing issues. I plan to do a campus-wide survey on housing issues to gather information about how much students pay for housing. This will give me data so we can tackle the real issues. Also, I hope to do a Town Hall in October or November. After the Town Hall, I want to gather a group of students for an Action Research Team to help me with research and connecting to the student body.

OPERS Fall KickOff -

- I was requested to give an update on SUA projects to the OPERS staff at their Fall KickOff. This event was basically a “welcome to the year” event for OPERS staff to plan on how to connect and engage with students for the year.
- This year I think it will be important for the SUA to be involved with OPERS. Physical health and mental health are closely tied, and the UCSA campaign is working on mental health. OPERS could be a good partner for that campaign. In addition, OPERS is planning to run three referendum this year. It will be important for them to communicate with the student body and the SUA.

SUA Open House -

- We hosted an open house for Welcome Week. I was concerned about students finding the new office, but we had a pretty good turn out. It was the same day as the OPERS Fall Festival, so we did a raffle for the day. Students could enter the raffle to win Bay Tree Bookstore gift cards. This got a lot of people to give us their email for the listserv.



Student Union Assembly

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

OPERS Fall Festival -

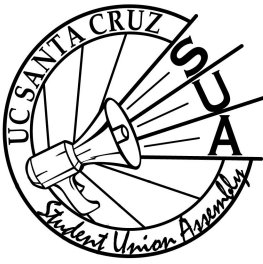
- SUA Tabled for the OPERS Fall Festival. I think we had a lot of students come to our table and a lot of people seemed to want to get involved.
- The Organizing Director developed a brochure for OPERS. I think this is a good thing to have on hand. It is very informative on what SUA is and how to be a part of the space. I think this will be very useful over the next year.
- We considered ordering “swag” for OPERS, but fortunately we did not because it would not have gotten here in time. I have a moral objection to “swag” because I do not feel like it is effective outreach, and it does not really benefit the student body. It really just benefits the small amount of students who get the free stuff. I would rather invest money into brochures that are educational materials than hand out free stuff like “toothpick holders.”
- After the Fall Festival and the Open House, I logged the emails and we are up to about 500 emails on our listserv. I think this is a good start, and since I created an actual listserv connected to the President email account it will last SUA for a long time. I believe it was a majority Frosh students, so they will be here for many years. At each SUA event I hope to collect emails and add them to the email list.

Gender Inclusive Restrooms -

- At OPERS, I stopped at the Cuantu/Queer Center table. I talked to the Lead Intern about gender inclusive restrooms and their “Free to Pee” Campaign. Later I forwarded them the initiative from the UC Office of the President mandating gender inclusive facilities to be installed at all UC campuses within the next year. Later I asked both the Chancellor and the Executive Vice Chancellor about implementation of these guidelines. They have both assured me it will be done within the next year. I am content with this for now, but I would like to see more students sitting on the committee that makes the decision about where gender inclusive facilities will go.

Constitution and Bylaws -

- Continuing from last month, I have still be reviewing and editing the governing documents of the SUA. I have a Constitution ready to go for Fall quarter, but I need it to be approved by the Assembly. I had to change “Chair” to “President” in a few places. I also had to change some things like “he/she.” And there were some formatting and grammar issues. I want to Assembly to approve this as soon as possible so we can post it on the website. And after that we will start working on the Bylaws. I think this will require an ad-hoc committee to make sure the Assembly has a stronger voice in the process. There are a lot of flaws, and the Parliamentarian needs to be written into the Bylaws. As well as the finance committee. There will have to be a lot of changes over the next year. I would also like to get a constitution for Lobby Corps and the Diversity Commission into the Bylaws so we can be sure those committees are meeting in the future.
- I think it would be good for the SUA to review the Bylaws more often in the future. There are many flaws and it is contradictory to itself in many places. I think that can easily be



Student Union Assembly

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

prevented if there was a committee that researched it every year to be sure it was functional. The Bylaws and the Constitution are the guiding documents of the SUA and they should be taken seriously and read carefully.

SUA Summer Conference Call -

- We had a summer conference call with the Assembly. This was mostly just to give updates and introductions. It was nice to communicate in that way. It would be great if we did more frequent calls throughout the year and the summer.

SFAC Retreat/SFAC -

- For the Student Fee Advisory Committee, I sit ex-officio as a non-voting rep. I will be attending the weekly meetings. So far we have just had a retreat/training. It went well.

Founders Dinner -

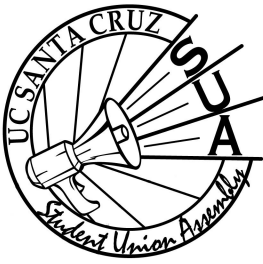
- Myself and the other Officers attended the 50th Anniversary Founder's Dinner. We were invited by the administration and the planners of the event. The purpose of the event was mostly to celebrate Founders, Alumni, and people who donate to the school. Very few students were there. This event was great because I got to meet some of the Alumni who were involved with the SUA or student government a long time ago. I met the first Chair of the SUA and the first Chair of Council of the Chairs. I hope to connect with them again in the future to possibly host an event or just hear more about the history of student government. I would like to collect the history and put it in one comprehensive paper. Students have accomplished a lot over the years and I would like to see that recorded in some way.

Chancellor Meeting -

- My first meeting with the Chancellor was uneventful. It was mostly an update on what SUA is doing this year. I told him about all of the projects that each Officer is working on and he provided some information that could help on some of the projects. He also told me that he is still willing to come visit Assembly meetings, even after what happened last time. For the future, I would like to collect questions from the Assembly to ask him. This first meeting was more introductory and it was before Assembly meetings were taking place. My next meeting is in December. I would like to post on the SUA Facebook page, "If you could ask the Chancellor anything, what would you want to know?" Then I can publish the answers, or at least provide him a list and ask him to respond to each one. Administration really needs to be closer to the student body.

GSC Meeting -

- I was invited to attend the Graduate Student Commons meetings. They meet once a month to discuss the Graduate Student Commons building and the programming they do to support grad students. It is good to go to find points of potential collaboration and



Student Union Assembly

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

provide the undergraduate perspective. Mostly, it is just beneficial to be aware of everything that is happening on campus, so I find it useful to go. At this month's meeting we talked about the new restaurant that will be replacing Joe's Subs. I am unable to share this information with students yet, but I can say that they hope to have the contract settled this quarter. I am unsure that this will provide affordable food for students, but I do think this new restaurant will benefit students and provide a good student spot.

GFI -

- The Global Food Initiative is still going great. They have hired undergraduate and graduate students to help with research and outreach. We are discussing resources that the campus provides for students with food projects. The Global Food Initiative will likely be coming in this quarter to talk about the program.

Council of the Presidents and UCoP -

- The Council of the Presidents, a group made up of all of the undergraduate and graduate Presidents at all ten UC campuses, met with Janet Napolitano, the President of the UC System. This meeting took place at the UC Office of the President (UCoP) in Oakland. We discussed housing, the additional 5,000 students coming to the UC system next fall, and cameras on UC cops. By January, the police of the UC system will likely all be equipped with cameras. By November, Napolitano should have a good idea how many additional students will be at each UC next fall. And housing is an issue that UCoP is aware of, but there is currently no action plan to improve the situation.

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

Cheers,
Julie Rachel Foster
SUA President