



# Student Union Assembly

## Office of Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion

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To the *Student Union Assembly*,

Under my duties as Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion of the Student Union Assembly and Article III Section D.4 of the SUA Constitution, I present my November 2015 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.

### **Student of Color Conference:**

I had SOCC orientations until the first week of this month just in case people were not able to attend the first orientation. The Student of Color Conference took place November 6-8. Since it took place the first weekend of the month, I focused on finalizing any major logistics of before the weekend. The first week I used up to fully prepare for the conference. I worked on finalizing the list of students who were going since some let me know they could not go last minute. I also worked on the hotel accommodations and the Organizing Director was very helpful with this. I then made sure that we had all the necessary components in order to make sure that I was not missing anything for the event. Overall, the only challenge was that I also scheduled an orientation during this week so it was time consuming trying to finalize and do final prep for the event when I had to also facilitate an orientation.

On the day of the event, we left around 6pm, and got to the conference at around 9pm which was just in time for students to hear the welcome and go out and get dinner. Dinner was on our own so it was challenging keeping the delegation together but this is where the delegation leaders came in handy because they were able to help me with making sure that the members of the delegation were safe and accounted for. I was in the charter bus and there was two vans that left with us and a van that left earlier. There was some lack of communication from the some of the drivers of the vans which was frustrating but I was able to resolve that and reiterate that communication was an important aspect of the conference. I also had to step out of the event and organize the hotel keys to correspond to the participants which was challenging to do on my own but I was also able to figure that out. We also had communication issues with some delegates that day which lead to people having to be picked up by the vans because the bus left them behind, which was also frustrating as the delegation leader because I felt like some of the delegates did not listen to me when I would instruct them. When we got back to the hotel I did a head count and a roll call to make sure that everyone was accounted for. I also handed everyone their keys and told them where to find their rooms. After that I set my belongings in my room and headed out to do another room check to see of

the delegates were in their rooms and to inform them when they needed to wake up. The Organizing Director and I then met to prep for the next day and for the UCSC Campus breakout sessions, since we wanted these sessions to be purposeful.

In the morning on the second day, I woke up early to knock on everyone's door to make sure that everyone was up and getting ready because I didn't want the delegation to be late the event. I had some help from the delegation leaders for this. After the delegation was off to UCB for the conference, everyone seemed really excited and were talking and getting to know each other. During the second day I made sure that people knew where they wanted to go, I made sure to attend workshops and caucus spaces to encourage and make sure that delegates were also attending. Although there were officers who did not attend workshop and were instead in the UCB student union talking to people. During the campus breakout session, a graduate student from UCSC who was not part of the delegation made problematic remarks and became upset when she wasn't allowed to speak at our delegation session. My job as a facilitator was to make sure that we were staying on topic which I think that she might have taken personally, but I am ultimately responsible for the UCSC undergraduate delegation not the graduate student one. There were no further incidents at the conference that day. That night I also checked in on everyone to make sure they knew what time we were leaving and to make sure that they knew that they needed to be packed and ready.

On the third day, I woke up early again and knocked on everyone's doors to make sure that they were awake. All three other officers were still asleep when I knocked on their door and one would not open the door so I had to get an extra key to make sure that they were okay. It turns out that they were in the shower and did not realize the time. That was the only major incident. The day went through smoothly the delegates knew each other a bit more so it was fulfilling to see them interact with each other and have conversations about what they learned at the conference.

Overall, planning SOCC was stressful but definitely worth it because so many students from communities who are historically underrepresented got to talk and interact with one another. Some of the participants were even able to share their stories at a report back at the SUA.

### **Meeting with Queer Student Union External Chair**

I met with the QSU External Chair and I got to learn more about the Queer Student Union, which is one of the organizations that has a voice in the SUA. I was able to learn more about QSU and how it functions and some things that QSU are doing.

### **Hiring Committees**

This month I sat on the hiring committee for the SUA Historian and Media Coordinator.

### **Resource Center Advisory Board Meeting**

First of all, when I came into this position I was not transitioned at all and to be honest most of the files on my computer and email addressed were non-existent. It is clear that I stepped into this position not knowing much, and the Resource Center Advisory Board (RCAB) was one of those things. The VPDI is supposed to sit on this board to help provide student input to the resource centers, yet it is not included in the duties as VPDI. The VPDI is actually supposed to help Chair this board, which was a big surprise to me because I had no idea what

RCAB was and I had no idea what it's purpose was. I had to meet with the Director of the Ethnic Resource Center, Nancy Kim to be able to provide more information on what RCAB was. Nancy Kim was very helpful in the process. One of my goals for the RCAB is to help modify the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) because there are some things that are no longer needed.

I think that this needs to be added to the duties of VPDI because this board is very important and it can be a very useful point of contact for all of the resource centers and the SUA. It just needs a lot of work right now!

### **Chancellor's Diversity Advisory Council**

The Chancellor's Diversity Advisory Council is a council composed of different faculty, staff and students who can provide the Chancellor with Advise on Diverisity issues. I really enjoyed this meeting because the Chancellor was challenged and help accountable for having sent an email that showed concern for one group over another. Although the space is dominated by staff and faculty I think that it is a crucial space to have more student representation beacuse students know best what is happening in thier communities at UCSC. I think that the CDAC should meet more often and be able to offer a space for more student input. The meeting was also structured in a way that was a bit strange since the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion actually spent a major part of the meeting giving updates to the rest of the council. I think that time better be used by allowing more input.

### **Engaging Education**

I was not able to be Engaging Education's 1st board meeting since it took place during SOCC, however, I was able to meet with the Chair and have a check-in about what was covered at BoD.

In conclusion, I provide this summary as my detailed report for the month of November 2015. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Sauli Itzel Colio  
Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion