



Student Union Assembly, Office of External Affairs
July 2015
Guillermo E. Rogel Jr
suavpe@ucsc.edu



Hello fellow slugs!

In an attempt to keep the Student Union Assembly and Office of External Affairs accountable and transparent, I hereby issue the monthly report for July 2015. This report is intended to serve as both a summary of work done in July but at the same time provide criticism that lead to improvements in both the SUA and in the Office of External Affairs. Excuse the length of this report; I tried to provide as much context as possible in this report to preclude a lot of the work that will be taking place this coming year. If you have any further questions or would like to schedule a meeting please contact me at suavpe@ucsc.edu

Activities for the month of July 2015

Foundations for Office of External Affairs

All newly elected officers for the SUA took office on July 1st and began working on initiatives that we all hope will benefit the current and future students of UC Santa Cruz. As your Vice President of External Affairs, it is my duty to advocate for students at the city, state, and national level and coordinate these campaigns with the other SUA Officers. The month of July was a time of transition that showed me the many stages of planning that take place prior to organizing a conference delegation and developing relationships with leaders from different departments on campus. Shortly after taking office, I started both short and long term planning for the office which consisted of potential actions, incoming delegations for summer conferences, and reading reports regarding student issue that were presented the UC Board of Regents Meeting.

I think we as officers have not been operating as a single unit yet. This will be my fourth year being a part of the SUA space, and I think that one of the biggest challenges for the SUA has always been its lack of unity and direction. A lot of the time our space will forget that our organization was built to advocate and fight for students at the campus, city, state and national levels. Since the SUA officers are still in preparation for this next year, we're at a unique time to set a vision and direction for the SUA and its members.

UCSA Meeting with President Napolitano

All External Vice Presidents who are members of UCSA have one quarterly meeting with UC President Napolitano. This is was the first time where UCSA was able to attend a summer meeting at the UC Office of the President. Per context; the meeting and agenda items are agreed upon before the meeting takes place. We first met with Judy Sakaki, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Eric Heng, Assistant Director of Student Services, at UCOP. We discussed the current \$60 fee that is being used to settle a court case won by students when tuition was being increased. Eric Heng informed us that the fee is set to



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sunset in 2018-19. We also discussed the active recruitment and retention of African America and Black students at UC campuses. It was a concern to UCSA that only few UCs actually represent the diversity that California has to offer. It was mentioned that if all African American students who were offered admission to the UC accepted their offer, the number of African American students would double. UCOP should address two points here. One is the retention of black students on our campuses. The graduation rates are lower for African American students than they are to other groups. Resources should be increased to student services such as the African American Resource Center here at UC Santa Cruz to expanded outreach and retention services. UCOP has said that they are initiating a study which is to be completed by December of this year that will look into issues affecting the African American community before they reach the UC system? They are hoping that the study will highlight problems that the students see with the UC before they step foot on campus.

Among other issues, we also discussed the necessity to establish Police Oversight Commissions on each campus to ensure the transparency of our campus police. UCSA was concerned about excessive presence of police at recent events that were acts of civil disobedience. Concerns were also expressed about the militarization of our forces and the fear that generates on our campuses. After the pepper spray incident that happened at UC Davis in 2009, the [Robinson Edley Report](#) advised UCOP to create student oversight. UCSA wants the recommendations to be taken a step further. We want to implement measures that end racial and gender profiling.

Items for our meeting with President Napolitano included the recent tuition deal, student mental health, and UCSA's Student Advocacy, Governance, and Engagement fee proposal. Graduates and undergraduates expressed that although the tuition deal did not guarantee a tuition-free education for every student at the UC, we managed to give ourselves two years to develop a long term funding plan for the University of California. Currently, UCOP is working on gathering data that will show the justification behind the high Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) that was part of the deal.

The state of our student mental health was also a topic of discussion. As part of the Board of Regents 5 year stability plan, there was \$54 increase to the student services fee that all UC students currently pay. Earlier this year, it was agreed that half of this money would be earmarked for student mental health services. We asked where the money would be directly going. There are currently three levels of services available to students. Tier 3 is general outreach and promotion of CAPS services, Tier 2 is targeted services to underrepresented communities, and Tier 1 is direct services such as seeing a counselor or psychiatrist individually. UCSA sees that the current levels of staffing at Counseling and Psychological Services at UC campuses are inadequate to support the amount of students seeking help. UCOP said that the funding would be going to hiring for Tier 1 services.



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The last item mentioned in the meeting was the UCSA SAGE Proposal, which aims to increase our advocacy efforts by expanding the resources available to UCSA. This would be a \$6 opt-out fee that would allow for UCSA to send more students to Board of Regents meeting and system-wide meetings. We could also increase our presence at each campus by hiring staff to help each External Office in organizing on their campuses. Currently the way students pay into UCSA is left up to their individual student governments. We want to give each UC student the ability to opt-out of the fee thereby increasing agency amongst students. President Napolitano was in favor of this fee and said that “a strong UCSA means a strong UC.”

Both UCSA and UCOP walked away from the meeting with a sense that we are going to have a professional and understanding relationship in the coming year. While the tuition deal was not the best outcome, we have time to organize and look for longer term funding plans for the UC and address issues impacting students on our campuses

SUA Course: *Politics of the UC*

This year I want to get an SUA 2 unit Course sponsored by a faculty member. The course would be titled “Politics of the UC” which is aimed to give students a holistic view of the many layers of governance that impact the development of the University of California. I modeled the syllabus after the last SUA course sponsored by 2012-13 SUA Chair Dt Amajoyi and Professor Johnathan Fox, which took place Winter of 2013.

After help from our SUA advisor Hodayun, the Oakes Provost Regina Langhout agreed to sponsor the course for this year. We are currently working on finalizing guests and readings for the course. You can find the draft version of the course [here](#).

I believe that this course could be developed with the input of members of the assembly who are interested in external affairs. This course is centered on matters that pertain to policy that is introduced at the state, national, and UC system-wide level; however, I think that if other officers wanted to construct their own course and model it after the syllabus for this course, it could be done. This is will be a trial run for the course. If it benefits those who take the course, it will be offered again the following quarter.

UCSA July Board of Regents Meeting – UC San Francisco

During the July meeting, the UC Board of Regents addressed the latest budget deal that was passed by the Governor Jerry Brown. After a long year of fighting tuition hikes students were presented a package which included a tuition freeze for the next two years, and funding for enrollment growth. At the surface, the deal seems to add stability but there is still much uncertainty about the financial stability of the UC. First the tuition



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freeze only applies to new California undergraduate residents. Out of state and graduate students are still subject to tuition hikes. Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition will impact graduate majors differently. Another caveat of the deal is that this deal further politicizes the cost and value of a UC education. It was only two years ago that a deal such as this was struck between the UC and the governor. During these next two years it is critical that students organize to force the state and the UC to develop a funding model that rolls back tuition and ensures the safety and retention of all of its students. The SUA can play a key role in outreaching to students about this unique window of opportunity that we have right now. 2016 is going to be a historic year. It is critical that students at UC Santa Cruz help shape the state and national dialogue about the purpose and benefit of a system of free higher education. I encourage more students to seek opportunities that will impact the UC in a positive way.

In the spring of 2015 the Office of External Affairs and the Sexual Assault Facts and Education center launched a UConsent petition drive that asked for mandated in person consent training for all incoming students, staff, and faculty. We were able to collect over 700 signed cards from students at UCSC. As a collective, UCSA was able to collect 5,820 signed petitions and deliver them to UCOP. At the July Board of Regents received an update on Sexual Assault Task Force which stated that incoming freshman would receive mandatory in person consent training. While this is a victory for advocates of sexual assault prevention we are still asking that this mandatory training be extended to include staff, administration, and faculty. UCSA and the Office of External Affairs will continue to work on the UConsent campaign in hopes we achieve this goal.

The UC Board of Regents meetings are typically hosted at UC San Francisco. There are major disadvantages to having the meeting hosted at UCSF. For one, UCSF is a graduate school that has very very few undergraduates. Graduates have heavy course loads and don't have time to attend a two day long meeting. Additionally undergraduates are not allowed the opportunity to testify or sit through a meeting if they do not have the liberty to miss school or access transportation to UCSF. It is also typical to expect heavy presence of campus police that adds tension among attendees and the Board of Regents. In any case, UC Santa Cruz students have unique access to the Regents since we are one of the UC campuses located near UCSF. I think the SUA could make an event or rally where we take students to a Regents meeting and give public comment about issues impacting UC Santa Cruz.

UCSA Board of Directors July Meeting

The UCSA Board of Directors met in July at UC Berkeley. This was the first time that UCSA hosted a board meeting in the summer before the beginning of Congress and after the transition of many new Vice Presidents of External Affairs. Adding this new helped



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us in many ways. The agenda for the July Meeting can be found [here](#). Below are some key points.

The July Board meeting allowed us to summarize and debrief UCSA's meeting with President Napolitano and allowed us to take a stance for recent appointment nominations for new members of the UC Board of Regents. It also gave us time to evaluate the current status and relationship with UCOP and Regents. UCSA Board was also presented with a presentation by Evolve: Make it Fair Campaign. The campaign focuses on the reformation of Proposition 13. If the campaign achieves its goals two things will happen. First commercial property taxes that have not been reassessed since Prop 13 passed in 1979 will be reassessed to current market value. Secondly, that money will be distributed to local school districts and be given to k-14 education. UCSA has endorsed the campaign but has not committed resources to the movement since we are unsure if the revenue generated will make its way to the UC system.

UCSA was also presented with a Shared Governance Proposal being spearheaded by Avi Oved, the current UC Student Regent. The proposal is aimed to add a Student Advisor position, similar to the staff advisor position that currently sits on the UC Board of Regents. As it currently stands there is only one voting student regent on the board. This proposal adds another layer of advocacy that will allow one more students to voice student concerns during the board of regents meeting. Ultimately, students would like to see more student votes on the board and this proposal aims to set us up for a ballot referendum or legislation that will do that.

UCSA Congress Irvine – August 13-16

Every year the UC Student Association holds an annual Congress. UCSA uses this opportunity to gather students from across the UC system to discuss and take action on issues that impact students. I spend the month of July preparing for the delegation that I was taking to Congress. I developed the application for UCSA and used a campus wide email and Facebook to outreach to students. The application for the conference was open for three weeks. In the end we received 96 applications for both UCSA and USSA Congress. I worked with the SUA President and Organizing Director to select the 20 students we were taking to Irvine. It became apparent that I was not going to take as many folks as I would have wanted to this conference due to the budget allotted for this conference.

USSA Congress – University of Nevada Las Vegas – August 5-10

At the same time that I was organizing the delegation for UCSA Congress I was also planning to send a delegation of 8 students to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for



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the USSA Congress. This conference is more centered on issues that impact students at the national level. The application for this conference was a little rushed on my end. The application should have been out for at least three weeks but due to officer transition and the deadline to submit individual registration forms the application was only open for two weeks. It would be beneficial for the office to open applications and outreach for both conferences at the end of spring quarter. This is a conversation I intend on having with the assembly the coming year.

This concludes my July Officer Report.