December 31, 2017

Under My duties as Vice President of Internal Affairs of the Student Union Assembly and Article III Section A Subsection 2(j) of the SUA Constitution, I present my December 2017 monthly report and evaluation to the Assembly. I will outline all of my events, logistical planning, activities and constructive criticism with areas of improvement in hopes of providing a detailed account in the month’s report.

**Completed and Ongoing Projects:**

**C4 and SCOC Sister College Event:**

* Fall Quarter C4 took place on Friday, December 1. Overall, the night was successful -- we had several members of the public who were not appointed to committees attend the event to hear others’ reportbacks. The event was also well-attended by current committee appointees -- almost everyone who is sitting on a committee gave report-backs on their current work.
	+ I sent out a survey to all current appointees to gauge people's’ feelings about their experiences sitting on committees and interactions with SCOC so far. I will review these results with the SCOC Executive Board early next quarter.
* The Porter/Kresge Sister College event took place on Saturday, December 2. The theme was “Fellowship of the Fajita”, a family dinner-style event where we spent almost our entire budget on food to feed students before finals. This event was probably the best-attended one my office has orchestrated so far this year, with about 150 students coming to get dinner and learn about SCOC.
	+ Brandon, the Kresge representative, got an amazing deal on food through JW Catering, a Silicon Valley-based catering company that generously donated enough food so we could feed around 350 students on our $800 budget. This company is now permanently in the vendor system and I highly encourage folks to continue using them, as their service was very impressive and they gave us an amazing deal on food.

**TAPS Campaign:**

* After my office was unsuccessful at negotiating debt relief for TAPS at last month’s Advisory Committee on Campus Transportation and Parking (ACCTP) meeting, I scheduled a meeting with TAPS Director Larry Pageler in order to determine how to best proceed.
* Larry and I were able to negotiate an addition to the transportation fee increase referendum language, which accounts for the possibility that campus administration might agree to waive part or all of TAPS’s deficit in the future. If this scenario took place after the referendum was passed, the transit fee would decrease accordingly to ensure students weren’t paying an unnecessarily excessive amount of money. This language also charges SFAC with reviewing TAPS’s budget and the referendum annually.
* I attended the final ACCTP meeting of the quarter, which took place the Monday after finals ended. I am disappointed that the committee chose to meet to discuss potential service cuts (for if the TAPS referendum fails) after many students had already left for winter break, because these conversations require a great deal of student input and participation.

**METRO Board:**

* SCOC invited the three finalist candidates for the Student Director position in for an interview during the last week of Fall Quarter. We needed to select a candidate for this position by the end of 2017 because that’s when Interim Director Larry Pageler’s term ends.
* After much deliberation, SCOC appointed second year student Davon Thomas as UCSC’s first ever Student Director on the Santa Cruz METRO Board of Directors. He will be sworn in during the January 2018 METRO Board meeting.
* After we made our decision, SCOC debriefed ‘best practices’ for selecting a candidate for this position in the future because the Student Director will have to be re-appointed annually. Moreover, because we are structuring the appointment schedule so the outgoing and incoming Student Directors’ terms overlap by one quarter, we still need to figure out whether to recruit and appoint the 2019 Student Director in Spring 2018 or Fall 2018.

**Community Rentals Peer Advisors:**

* I pitched the idea of community rentals peer advisors to Vice Provost of Student Success Jaye Padgett, and he agreed to commit partial funding to the program, on the condition that CHES and SUA also helped fund it. I plan to bring this program to the Assembly and CHES next month in hopes of getting buy-in from these units as well.
* I still haven’t decided whether to use funding from my own line item or ask the Assembly for general funds, but plan to have a draft budget completed by early next month, which will help me determine how to proceed.

**Lunch Meeting with Sarah Latham:**

* All of the SUA Officers were invited to a lunch meeting with Vice Chancellor of Business and Administrative Services Sarah Latham, where we discussed a variety of topics related to our projects. I specifically brought up the possibility of finding central funding for commencement and TAPS to avoid overtaxing students.

 **Commencement Campaign:**

* I had a conference call with all the Vice Chancellors of Student Affairs throughout the UC System, the systemwide Vice President of Student Affairs, Robin Holmes-Sullivan, and the Council on Student Fees (CSF) Chair, Hayden Jackson, about the CSF Commencement Resolution. I find it interesting that this resolution seems to be making such big waves throughout the UC System, considering that only UC Santa Cruz, UC Irvine, and UC San Diego are not in compliance with this policy. Administrators’ top question for us was how CSF defines “core academic functions” -- many campus administrators consider degree-conferring commencement ceremonies to be “supplemental programs” acceptable for Student Service Fee funding because students can technically be awarded a degree from a university without walking in a commencement ceremony.
* I presented my finalized proposal for commencement funding at UCSC to the Commencement Funding Working Group. We will continue discussing possible ways to implement the proposal’s suggestions at a future meeting.
* I briefly considered running an amendment to Measure B, the guidelines outlining acceptable uses for the College Government Fee, in the Spring 2018 Campus Elections. This amendment would not change the amount of this fee, but would clarify the distinction between degree-conferring and non-degree conferring commencement exercises (in order to ensure that student fee money wasn’t spent on degree-conferring exercises) and to strengthen the oversight powers of the college governments in order to avoid administrators using money from college governments’ prior accounts without approval from students. I created draft language for this amendment and consulted with SFAC and Cowell Senate; however, I did not feel that I would be able to consult with a sufficient number of students or college governments before the referendum deadline.
	+ If there is still a need to modify this language in future years, I would strongly encourage students (perhaps the college government chairs) to run this referendum. I regret not being able to see this project through to fruition this year, but I think it is still a worthy cause to pursue going forward, as long as sponsors are able to consult with a broader range of student leaders before submitting the ballot language.

**Smith Renaissance Society Housing Work:**

* I had a conference call with staff from the Smith Renaissance Society and Colleges, Housing, and Educational Services (CHES), including AVC of CHES Sue Matthews in order to continue discussing the possibility of implementing 12-month housing guarantees for Smith students. We are now looking for an available set of apartment buildings somewhere on campus that we will use to convert into year-round Smith housing. If implemented, this housing option will start in the 2019-2020 school year, as we need to plan a year in advance for such a major change to the current housing policy.
* In future years, Smith students might also choose to live at Student Housing West year-round; however, I expressed my concerns about the cost of this housing option being especially unaffordable for this population of students.
* We have a follow-up meeting scheduled for next month to continue planning this project.

**CAPS Hiring Lunches:**

* Through my work on the CAPS Student Advisory Board, I attending a hiring committee presentation, Q&A, and lunch for a candidate interviewing for one of the CAPS generalist positions.
* This was a good opportunity for me to not only be able to evaluate a CAPS therapist candidate but also to see how CAPS hiring lunches are set up, as I still hope to open up future lunches to all students.

**Strategic Academic Planning Meeting:**

* Campus Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor (CP/EVC) Marlene Tromp announced that she is hiring [Entangled Solutions](https://www.entangled.solutions/), a third party consulting firm, to draft a [Strategic Academic Plan](https://cpevc.ucsc.edu/academic-plan/) for UCSC. Many student leaders, faculty, and staff have mixed feelings about this project for various reasons, but as Chair of SCOC, I am primarily concerned with making sure the planning committee has student representation. I sent several emails to CP/EVC Tromp, which eventually resulted in the SUA officers being invited to a focus-group meeting with the Entangled Solutions consultants.
* Later in the month, I received an email requesting I put forward several student nominees to sit on the planning committee, with the understanding that the CP/EVC would pick the student representatives from this pool of nominees. I struggled whether to just nominate someone or to write back and advocate for SCOC to directly select the student representative, but after talking with some of the other officers, I decided to go ahead and nominate one person: SUA Vice President of Academic Affairs Jessica Xu, for this position.

 **Areas for Improvement:**

* My first time doing payroll for all the SCOC-appointed committee representatives at the end of this quarter could have gone much smoother. Next quarter, I plan to start reminding representatives to turn in their blue card about two weeks in advance of C4 (and 3-4 weeks before final payroll is due) in order to avoid the last-minute scrambling I faced this month.