February 1, 2018

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 January 2018 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:**

* Community Rentals Peer Advisor Program:
  + I met with SUA Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion Katherine Le, Disability Resource Center Coordinator Angela Hollerman, and Kevin Tresham from CHES to follow up on my proposal for implementing a pilot version of the Community Rentals Peer Advisor Program during spring quarter. At the meeting, I presented my proposed budget for the pilot program.
  + I drafted a position description for the UCSC Employee Request System, outlining the qualifications and responsibilities for advisors.
  + I’m still waiting to hear back from CHES about providing ⅓ of the funding for this program. In an earlier report, I mentioned that Vice Provost of Student Success Jaye Padgett had agreed to commit ⅓ of the funding if the other funding comes from CHES and SUA. I’ll follow up with CHES later today to make sure this is still on their radar.
* Commencement Funding Campaign:
  + The Commencement Funding Working Group met for the final time after coming to an agreement that we would ask each of the 13 units participating in campus-wide commencement ceremonies (the ten colleges, Graduate Division, Engineering Division, and Chicanx/Latinx Resource Center) for $6,500 to cover the costs of commencement. Moreover, the rest of the money will come out of central funds, not SFAC or another student-based funding source, and any left over money will be returned to the ten units.
  + Vice President of Academic Affairs Jessica Xu and I presented this proposal at SUA and each of the college governments in order to uphold transparency and ‘ask for their blessing’ to use their commencement line item in this way.
  + Several other members of the committee and I are drafting a report of our recommendations of sources to find the remaining money needed for commencement. This report will be submitted to the Executive Vice Chancellor before the end of the academic year.
  + We also found out that Quarry Amphitheater has the capacity to serve as a venue for commencement. This means that all ceremonies that were previously held on the West Field will be moved to the Amphitheater starting this year, which will save us money on renting a second stage for the West Field.
  + I called in to the Winter Council on Student Fees (CSF) meeting to update them on this progress, and the UCSC and systemwide reception to the CSF Commencement Resolution. I suggested they identify their own definition of “core academic expenses” because that’s where a lot of the ambiguity surrounding whether it was appropriate to use student fees to fund commencement came from when I talked to UCSC and systemwide administrators at the end of last quarter.
* Smith Renaissance Society Housing Work:
  + I continued meeting with staff from the Smith Renaissance Society and Housing in order to implement a year-round housing option for Smith students staying on campus over Winter Break.
  + We plan to send out a survey to Smith-affiliated students to see if they feel they would benefit from this option.
* SUA Advisor Search Committee:
  + Maura, the SUA interim advisor, is leaving at the end of the quarter, so several other officers and I are sitting on a search committee to find her replacement. This month, we met to launch the search committee and graded candidate applications for the permanent advisor. Next month, we will conduct interviews with our selected candidates.
* SFAC Proposal Grading:
  + As the SUA ex-officio representative to SFAC, my role on this committee is generally minimal outside of attending weekly meetings. However, this month proved to be an exception, as I participated in SFAC’s annual proposal grading process where I ranked and provided feedback on approximately 30 proposals for SFAC funding.

* IVP Tabling and Outreach:
  + My office held a small event called “Snacks with the Office of Internal Affairs”, where we gave out snacks in the Quarry and educated students about SUA, my office, and open committee seats.
* Systemwide Work (Miscellaneous):
  + The SUA Officers hosted the UC Student Regent, Student Regent-Designate, and Student Advisor to the Regents for dinner during their UCSC visit early this month. We used this time to update them about students’ questions, concerns, and priorities related to housing and other basic needs.
  + Several other officers and I attended the January UC Regents meeting in San Francisco to speak out against the proposed tuition increases. The vote on these increases was ultimately delayed to March (for out-of-state tuition) and May (for in-state tuition).
    - I am currently in conversation with the SUA Office of External Affairs about mobilizing students to travel to UCLA in March to speak out against the out-of-state tuition vote. While this falls out of my direct purview as IVP, I was compelled to take action both because of my desire to improve the quality of life for out-of-state students at UCSC and because I doubt the proposed out-of-state increases will attract as much opposition or publicity than the in-state increases.
* SCOC Improvements:
  + Late last quarter, I sent out a survey to all students SCOC has appointed to sit on campus committees to ask about their experiences with committee membership and SCOC.
  + While many of these responses were positive, I passed feedback for the ‘improvables’ onto the chairs of the relevant committees.
  + I also decided to revamp part of the SCOC website to clarify what representatives’ next steps are right after SCOC has appointed them to their committees.
* SOFA:
  + I sat in for Max during the winter quarter SOFA, which was scheduled the weekend of the Students of Color Conference, so I was the only officer available to attend. We heard over 30 funding request presentations and deliberated about how to best spend our $19,000 Winter Quarter SOFA budget to serve these orgs.
* SUA Climate Work:
  + **Vision Committee:** My intern, Lily Green, and Max’s intern, Ashley Portillo, have been working to relaunch the SUA Vision Committee. We had our first few meetings this month, where we identified the challenges SUA faces. We will work towards implementing solutions to these challenges later this quarter.
  + **Climate Survey:** Max and I surveyed the Assembly about the climate in SUA meetings. We compiled this information into a summary that we will share with the Assembly at a meeting next month.
  + **Assembly Retreat:** The Office of the President and my office are working to host a retreat for the assembly members and officers later in the quarter. Our main goals for this retreat are to help improve relationships between assembly members and facilitate leadership training workshops to help current representatives feel more comfortable participating in the space.
  + **Staff Mixer:** The Office of Diversity and Inclusion and my office are planning an SUA staff mixer for officers and interns later this quarter. This will include food and bonding activities.
* **Out of State Survey Work:**
  + I met with members of the Admissions Office and Institutional Research Office to get survey data from two recent UC surveys: the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey and the UC Cost of Attendance Survey, in order to see how out-of-state students are affected by their heightened costs of attending UCSC. I want to use this data to propose institutional-level improvements to help make the undergraduate experience of being out-of-state at UCSC better.

**Suggestions for Improvement:**

* Many of my projects this quarter are collaborative with other SUA offices, but this has also led to an increased number of miscommunications between offices lately. It’s important to continue scheduling regular (weekly) check-ins with everyone involved on a certain project in order to ensure that we are all consistently on the same page.