July 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 July 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:**

**Dean of Students Search Committee (16 hours)**

* I served as the undergraduate representative on the Dean of Students Search Committee, which selected three finalist candidates to bring to campus for in-person interviews. At this point, the committee has recommended a candidate for hire to Vice Provost of Student Success Jaye Padgett.

**Campaign to Get a UCSC Student Representative on the Santa Cruz METRO Board of Directors (10 hours)**

* During my campaign, Noah Thoron, former Chair of Rachel Carson College Council, approached me about getting a student director on the Santa Cruz METRO Board of Directors. We met this month to talk more about the project, and I compiled a 5-page report on this issue to present to the METRO Board and campus administration.
* Ultimately, we want the Student Director to be a voting position, but this is a longer-term goal. For now, we are working to get a student in UCSC’s non-voting, ex-officio seat on the Board.
* We met with Lucy Rojas and Jimmy Dutra, the current Chair of the Board of Directors, to talk about getting a student on the Board. METRO is very supportive of this idea, but says it’s up to UCSC to appoint a student representative. My goal is to have this student appointed for a multiple-year term through SCOC.
* Going forward, Noah and I plan to attend the September Board of Directors meeting to present our case, in hopes of getting written support from them to convince UCSC administration to let SCOC appoint a student to the board.

**Providing Student Feedback to Campus Academic and Administrative Committees (8 hours)**

* One of my responsibilities as Chair of SCOC is to serve as an advocate for students sitting on campus academic and administrative committees to ensure they have positive experiences sitting on committees. Last year’s IVP, Grace Shefcik, sent out a survey to all undergraduate committee representatives at the end of the year to ask about their experiences sitting on committees. I broke down this feedback by committee and emailed an overview of the positives and suggestions for improvement to each committees’ Chairs and/or Analysts.
* I had several follow-up meetings with committee analysts to talk about ways they could help improve the committee experience for students. This also made me realize the need for an SCOC-led training for new student representatives, which I plan to hold periodically throughout the year, starting Fall Quarter. I also plan to give next year’s representatives copies of last year’s C4 minutes so they can have a background of what their committee has done in the past.

**Summer Orientation Tabling (6 hours)**

* I intended to table more than I actually did at Summer Orientation, but between my internship and other commitments, I was only able to make two of the tabling times. I plan to pick up the slack during Fall Welcome Week (see below).

**Met with Other Officers (4 hours)**

* I met with the other SUA officers 3 times this month. These meetings were productive; we were able to coordinate our plans for summer orientation tabling and begin talking about Fall agenda items, including doing more new student outreach during Welcome Week and implementing an assembly-wide retreat. Other officers also gave me good feedback about several of my projects, particularly related to training for new student committee representatives.

**Commencement Funding Project (3 hours)**

* Other student leaders and I are working to find a sustainable way to fund Commencement at UCSC, as the current funding model over-relies on financial assistance from SFAC and the College Senates. When we meet with CHES AVC Sue Matthews in August, we plan to push administration to take action on this issue by examining how other UC campuses fund their commencements and take steps to move towards a more sustainable funding model.

**Summer Committee Appointments (3 hours)**

* I appointed President Maxine Jiminez to the Committee on Planning and Budget, VPAA Jessica Xu to the Committee on Educational Policy, and VPDI Katherine Le to the Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity for the 2017-18 year. We decided that I will be the 2017-18 SFAC ex-officio SUA representative due to my past experience sitting on this committee.
* I also appointed Katherine to an OPERS ad-hoc committee that met once to discuss ADA compliance issues with OPERS facilities and, at CHES AVC Sue Matthews’ request, I appointed an undergraduate student parent to sit on the LRDP Committee’s Childcare Subcommittee, which meets weekly throughout the summer.
* I took over Grace’s responsibilities sitting on the Coordinated Community Review Team for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Misconduct (CCRT) and its Policies and Procedures Subcommittee, which is comprised of student, faculty, and staff leaders from across campus. I attended CCRT’s summer meeting where we brainstormed ways to educate the campus about gender and sexual violence issues. I’m excited to continue working with this committee and see some of these ideas through to fruition during the 2017-18 year.

**Continued the Onboarding Process for my Position (2.5 hours)**

* I met with Grace Shefcik, last year’s IVP, to talk about her experience as an officer. I received access to several social media accounts, including the IVP and SCOC Google Accounts, SUA, SCOC, Campus Elections, and Internal Affairs Facebook pages, the SUA Twitter account, and the SCOC SurveyMonkey account.
* I completed the trainings for and received access to the Student Union Building and SUA Office.
* I put in a request for administrative access to the SUA WCMS site, as I have already completed WCMS training. At this point, I have yet not received access, but hope to have it soon.

**2017-18 SCOC Swag (2 hours)**

* I used most of the remaining $1,727.50 of the 2016-17 SCOC budget to purchase SCOC swag for 2017-18 outreach. I bought 115 tote bags and 358 t-shirts with the SCOC logo from 4imprint. They should arrive sometime next month.

**Meetings with TAPS and CAPS (2 hours)**

* I met with Larry Pageler, Director of Transportation and Parking Services, and Gary Dunn, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, to talk about how their units could better serve students.
* **TAPS:** Larry gave me an overview of 2016-17 METRO ridership numbers and how much UCSC paid METRO for service during the 2016-17 year. He shared that TAPS will be doing more student focus groups to see where student priorities lie and is seriously considering putting a referendum on the ballot for 2018 campus elections to raise the transportation fee -- otherwise, TAPS will not be able to offer more services because they are in a deficit. He also talked about how METRO will be debuting a new route, Route 22, in the fall, which will go between campus and the new UCSC coastal science campus along the current 20 route. METRO will also be running larger buses along the 20 route at some point next year, which will enable them to transport more students with each bus trip.
* **CAPS:** Gary gave me an overview of some of the changes CAPS is making to their services next year. CAPS is trying to recruit two new therapists: a multicultural specialist and an African American specialist. I suggested he give students opportunities to meet finalist candidates for all CAPS positions when they come to campus for in-person interviews; right now, only students sitting on CAPS hiring committees have this opportunity, and there is no part of the selection process that is open to the public. I also suggested CAPS implement an anonymous suggestion box on their website for students to use after their visits. Finally, I was disappointed to learn that there is no mandatory diversity training for new or continuing CAPS staff. I hope to work with Office of Diversity and Inclusion to advocate for CAPS to implement required trainings.

**Connecting with New Students During Fall Welcome Week (2 hours)**

* I emailed College CPCs about presenting a 2-3 minute spiel introducing SUA and promoting our Fall 2017 Open House during one of each college’s mandatory Welcome Week events for new students. So far, I’ve heard back from the Oakes and Rachel Carson CPCs, who have both offered me times to present. I hope to hear back from other CPCs soon.
* I also met with Homayun about finding other ways to do outreach to new students during the first few weeks of school. We decided I’ll send out a campus-wide email promoting internships and our open house, and table in front of the food pantry and in college dining halls, in addition to tabling at the OPERS Fall Festival. I’ll also attend college senate meetings during the first few weeks of the quarter to introduce myself to student leaders across campus and promote SCOC committee applications.

**IVP and SCOC Intern Position Description Edits (2 hours)**

* I made minor edits to the ER System descriptions of the qualifications and duties for IVP and SCOC intern positions. I decided to hire two IVP Outreach Coordinators next year instead of one Outreach Coordinator and one Chief of Staff. Both of these positions will be paid hourly instead of BYA. All SCOC positions will still be paid BYA.

**Met with Other Students to Discuss Visions of SUA (2 hours)**

* I met with Jeff Stoll, the Stevenson SUA Representative-Elect, to discuss how to foster a better dynamic in SUA next year. We talked about the prevalence of “shadow slates” and the internal politics of the assembly that dissuade students from getting involved in the space, and about our common goal of helping students, despite differing visions of how to best do this. We talked about the importance of incorporating more assembly-wide community building activities early in the year, as well as how to best use last year’s SUA Vision Committee feedback to make SUA the best it can be. We hope to collaborate on several issues going forward, starting with finding a sustainable way to fund Commencement.
* I met with the Campus Life Editor for City on the Hill Press to discuss my vision for the Office of Internal Affairs and goals for next year. This interview will be published in a Fall issue of City on the Hill Press.

**Began making guides for students sitting on SCOC committees (2 hours)**

* Reading over the feedback from last year’s committee representatives, I realized there was a need for there to be a guide for academic and administrative committees that use lots of specific jargon and acronyms. I enlisted the help of VPAA Jessica Xu and SUA Representative Davon Thomas to create guides for the new representatives on the Committee on Educational Policy, Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid, and Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity. I plan to make guides for other Academic and Administrative Committees before the school year starts, and distribute all of the guides to new committee representatives when they are appointed during the year.

**Partnership with the UCSC Alumni Office (1 hour)**

* To address my platform of creating a better campus-wide alumni/student network, I met with Samantha Brandon and Katie Linder who work on the Slug2Slug student outreach program at the Alumni Office. We brainstormed several ways for our offices to collaborate, starting with a partnership to host I Heart UCSC Week, this year’s version of UCSC spirit week, in October.

**SCOC Steering Board Event Planning Training (1 hour)**

* I decided that next year’s SCOC Steering Board needs better event planning training in order to successfully host sister college events earlier in the year, which is one of my goals for SCOC. I talked with Homayun and Cowell’s CPC, Kara Snider, about coming into SCOC during early fall quarter to lead a basic event planning and brainstorming session.

**Reviewing Student Applications for UCSA Congress (1 hour)**

* At the EVP’s request, several officers and I met to review applications for the 2017 UCSA Congress and select the students who would be invited to attend as part of the UCSC Delegation.

**Outstanding Projects:**

**Partnership with the International Education Office**

* One of my platforms is to create a sense of community for out-of-state and international students on campus, so I have scheduled a meeting with Keri Toma, Programs Coordinator for the International Education Office, to talk about possibilities for SUA and the IEO to collaborate on events next year.

**LRDP P3 Summer Subcommittee**

* I’m a student representative for the LRDP public private partnership subcommittee, which is charged with selecting a development team to build UCSC’s first on-campus P3 housing development. Next month we will be touring completed P3 housing sites that the finalist teams have built at other universities. I will also be participating in the final team selection process that is scheduled to take place at the end of August.

**SCOC Orientation**

* Some of the feedback I received from students who sat on committees last year shows the need for a student-run orientation to introduce students to being a undergraduate committee representative that’s more comprehensive than the short briefing they have gotten in the past from committee analysts or chairs. I hope to work with the SCOC E-Board, as well as the Office of Academic Affairs and Academic Senate leadership to hold several trainings throughout the year for new SCOC committee appointees.

**2016-17 SCOC Committee Representative Emails**

* I plan to email all students who were appointed by SCOC to sit on a committee during the 2016-17 year to thank them for their service, remind them that their term has ended, and encourage them to re-apply next year if they enjoyed their experience as a committee representative.

**Areas For Improvement**

* For much of the month, I felt as though I spent 75% of my energy on SCOC-related tasks and 25% on everything else. Although I anticipated this initial learning curve as I have not sat on SCOC before, I hope to better balance my SCOC work with my other platforms in the future.
* I really wish I had made more progress on my platform of building community with out-of-state and international students this month, especially since there’s only a little over a month left until new international students arrive for orientation.