Dear Assembly,

 I hope that y’all are having a good Summer Break! School will be starting up next month and I’m excited to meet y’all. I’m still adjusting into this new position and working on a few projects to launch as soon as the school year starts.

Under my duties as President of the Student Union Assembly and Article III Section A.1 of the SUA Constitution, I present my August 2017 Monthly Report and evaluation to the Assembly. In the following are the projects, meetings, tasks, constructive criticisms and improvements I have for the month of August.

**Office of the President**

8: SUA Adviser Meeting

I met with Homayun to finalize Officer Agenda and other matters regarding the SUA. I want to make sure that I am caught up and aware of the different procedures that I need to know about before the school year starts.

15: UVA/Charlottesville Council of Presidents Statement

The Council of Presidents worked on a statement addressing the White Supremacists, who marched in UVA and voicing that as a body we are in solidarity with UVA and all students who are fighting against bigotry and racism on our campuses.

15: Begin Intern Descriptions

As I plan what initiatives I want to pursue based on my campaign, I want to make sure that the positions I create for the year will help the President’s Office meet those goals.

23: Max/Homayun

I met with Homayun to finalize details for the retreat. It’s really important for Officers to have a retreat to gain knowledge we all need to know to do our job well and efficiently.

25: Phone Call w/ Tallar

Tallar is the Government Relations of UCSA. She informed me about my new role as the Undergrad Co-chair of the Council of Presidents. From my conversation with Tallar, I learned that I will have quarterly meetings with Napolitano with the rest of the UC Presidents. I will need to coordinate with the Graduate Co-chair to make sure these meetings run smoothly.

28- 30 SUA Officer Retreat

All six SUA Officers had a 3-day retreat on campus. The agenda of the retreat is here: [2017-2018 SUA Officer Retreat Agenda](https://docs.google.com/a/ucsc.edu/document/d/1qbW3yjLWZlXo5FK3Z_L1BLfLf0RnIlxPkfdeI8X3w0A/edit?usp=sharing).

**Committee Meetings**

8: Basic Needs Website Committee Meeting

I met with Nancy Yang and gave updates on my role as a member of the Basic Needs Website Committee. I shared future initiatives and offered ways I can support and sustain the work of accomplishing the Basic Needs Website.

29: Basic Needs Website Committee Meeting

I had to come late for this meeting because I had to be at the Officer Retreat. We finalized what the content of the website will look like and finalized a launching date for the website.

**Student Engagement**

2-6: UCSA Student Organizing Summit

I had the opportunity to attend the Student Organizing Summit with UCSC’s delegates chosen by our very own External Affairs Office. I was able to network with other students from all the UCs and facilitated Council of Presidents Meeting with Student Regents, Devon and Paul. I learned about different campaigns and provided spaces for delegates to share and debrief reasons why they are interested in being involved in student government and activism.

9: SOAR Director Meeting

I met with Sayo Fujioka, who is the SOAR director to gain some advice about how to sustain myself throughout the year and to provide burnout. I was able to gain institutional knowledge of how the SUA was like in the past to help me get some insight on the potential SUA can have in the present and future. Lastly and most importantly, I asked for advice on how I can best engage with the student body in this new role. The reason I decided to meet with Sayo is because she is the director of SOAR, which is where most of the University’s student led clubs are under.

25: Meeting w/ Co-Editor in Chief of City on a Hill Press

I met with Nick who is the Co-Editor in Chief of City on a Hill Press. I wanted to make sure that I build a good relationship with CHP because we have a similar goal of making sure the student body is aware of issues that affect the University. I was able to release a statement in their Primer as the SUA President.

**Housing Initiatives**

13: Santa Cruz Tenant Organizing Committee Meeting

I met with Zav, who works with SCTOC. We discussed ways of providing students resources such as providing students with information about their rights as a tenant in Santa Cruz. We also brainstormed ways to collaborate in the upcoming year to bring awareness about how the Santa Cruz Housing Crisis affects students and locals.

14: Co-chair of Upcoming LRDP

I met with Kim Lau, who oversees the academic plans for the upcoming LRDP. We talked about different ways to get students, especially incoming students, involved in the process of writing and publishing the LRDP. Kim Lau is also a part of the Academic Senate. I expressed concerns about how the LRDP needs to have an academic plan to go with the document, otherwise, the plans of developing buildings including residential and academic buildings will not adequately serve the student body.

16: Student United with Renters

I met with students, who are organizing around housing issues on campus. The organized group is called, Students United with Renters. They came from Steve McKay’s, No Place Like Home Initiative, under the Sociology Department. I learned so much about what they are working on and how SUA can be a part of this especially since students are negatively affected by the housing crisis.

17: Santa Cruz for Bernie Housing Introduction

I met with Magi, who is the lead of the housing campaign under the SC4B. We talked about different initiatives going on in the city and on campus. Magi has been living in Santa Cruz for a long time and is heavily involved in the fight for housing justice in Santa Cruz. I met with her to learn more about what I can do to help and how students can be a part of the solution.

**Criticisms and Improvements**

As for myself, I was taking Summer Session during this time and on top of that, I am also working a second job. The time I can commit to this elected position, is unfortunately limited. Although I wish I can put in more hours for my work as SUA President, I also need to financially provide for myself and my family. However, I do my best to meet my time and work requirements.

My method in any type of work that I do is to do field work. Therefore, I do my best to meet with people who have already started or may have prior knowledge of anything I am interested in pursuing. In this case, that is the housing crisis and how it affects students. This field work of meeting with not just people who work in the University but also with locals, who have experienced this much longer. I want to make sure that I am not reinventing the wheel. I am also open to collaboration, as this is an issue that affects plenty of people. My criticism for this method, in the way that I have been trying to execute it is that I am not spending enough time analyzing and reflecting on what I find out about. I need to better in archiving my findings so that I can come up with better ideas.

Another criticism I have is the SUA Officer Retreat. I have plenty of new ideas that aren’t the norm in the SUA and although that is important, I also try to respect how things have been working before I became involved. I was trying to gain support for this retreat but I didn’t receive much. Although Homayun helped me with logistical details, everything was last minute because I was having trouble getting responses from him. In fact, it was truly a shock to me to find out that he resigned from his position. This made me feel worried about the type of support that the assembly will receive once the academic year starts again. I hope that next year more thought and effort will be put in the SUA Officer Retreat so that Officers, especially ones who are not too familiar with the SUA are able to do their job well and with confidence.

I feel that I needed to get better with what my priorities are and although my financial status requires me to take up a second time, I hope to get more rest so that I don’t burn out early in my term.

This concludes my report. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at suapres@ucsc.edu and I’d be happy to have a discussion with you. I can’t wait to meet and work with y’all!

Cheers,
Max Jimenez
President, Student Union Assembly