Dear Assembly,

Happy New Year! It’s been such a busy month and I hope Winter Quarter goes smoothly for you all. I am excited to be back on campus and continue my work as President with y’all. Some highlights of this month include SOFA, the Student of Color Conference, the January Regents Meeting, where the voted on postponing the tuition hike,

Under Article III Section A of the SUA Constitution, I am required to present a monthly evaluation to the assembly. This monthly evaluation of January 2018 will report the initiatives I am taking on as SUA President and constructive criticism in areas of improvement within the SUA. In the following are the projects, meetings, tasks, constructive criticisms and improvements of this month.

**January 1-5**

I was in LA for Winter Break and during this time, I worked on planning Winter 2018 SOFA, re-organized the Office of the President Staff Shared Google Drive, set up meetings with the administrators and caught up on emails. On December 4, the Officers and I had meeting via phone call to catch up and help Judith plan the Student Regents Visit.

**January 7-9**

I met with all my staff individually to set up quarterly goals and to follow-up on work that needs to get done as soon as possible.

**January 9**

I met with Ami Gonzalez from the Student Environmental Center. She just came back from studying abroad and she has spent her college career working on issues affecting students in regards to campus development and campus expansion. We met to catch each other up on what’s been happening and how our organizations can work cohesively to work on leveraging student housing needs.

**January 10**

I met with Judith in Iveta to plan out the Student Regents Meeting. She asked me to draft talking points about issues that the Student Regents should know about and I did just that. I was asked to hold a workshop on activism in the Sustainability Inter-Org Retreat so I met with the planners in the Sustainability Office to learn about logistics.

**January 11**

I went to the weekly CPB meeting and talked about academic issues and how to consult administrators about pressing issues happening on campus. The Student Regents, SUA Officers, GSA Officers and

GSC Officers met and talked over issues happening on a UC-wide and campus-wide issues. Here is the link if you want to know more about the issues we discussed: [Student Regents Visit Talking Points](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zLtiOdOMHxavxMdJw6qfNLU1LuxFvIH0wp20r2ZXNR0/edit).

**January 12**

I met with Alice to draft what the SUA Fall Evaluation should look like. We plan to present to the assembly in the upcoming SUA Meeting. Our purpose is to assess positives and improvables within SUA, in hopes that we can plan a retreat that meets the assembly’s needs. I met with Charlotte Osborn, one of the members of the Student Union Working Group. She wanted to learn more about how she can do better as the Ground Bottom Liner for SUHWG. We plan to table and she wanted to know how she can do that in the upcoming weeks. I met with Thao right before the first SUHWG meeting of the quarter. We finalized our agenda and gathered materials to make sure that the first meeting runs smoothly. The first SUHWG meeting of the quarter was a success. We had new and old faces. We followed up on work that needed to be done and planned ahead for next year and our upcoming retreat. Members are excited for the research team to hit the ground running and start surveying as soon as we get IRB certified.

**January 13**

I met with SUA Chair of 2012, DT and she gave me advice about being SUA Chair and how to move the assembly forward. She also gave me advice on how I can take care of myself and the most painful/rewarding parts of being President. I learned so much from her and feel much more urgent about the initiatives that I’m taking on.

**January 15**

I finalized the structure and content for the workshop on activism that I am presenting with Olivia Fisher from the Education for Sustainable Living Program. This workshop is for the Sustainability Inter-Org Retreat.

**January 16**

I was asked by people from a new organization called, Student Action to give a five-minute speech about my views and experiences with how unaffordable going to a UC is and the need to fight for free higher education. I met with Thao to prepare for the upcoming SUHWG Meeting and other initiatives we are working on and I met with some Officers to work on SUA-related matters before the SUA Meeting that same night.

**January 17**

I met with Noah and Jonathan to work on things that the President’s Office needs and I also had my office hours right after. I met with Alice immediately after to analyze and assess the SUA Fall Evaluations we received. We categorized them to prepare for a summary to present to the whole assembly.

**January 18**

I went to the weekly CPB meeting and met with my staff to work collectively on our responsibilities and obligations for that week.

**January 19**

I was got sick the night before so I wasn’t able to attend the search committee for the new SUA Adviser and I wasn’t able to go to the SUA Vision Planning Committee. I caught up through notes and word of mouth. I did attend the SUHWG meeting that night and I was happy to see we had representatives from the Student Housing West Advisory Committee to share their concerns and feedback on what we are trying to achieve to tackle the housing crisis.

**January 20**

I went to the Sustainability Inter-Org Retreat and I was able to network with students working on environmental and student issues on campus. I was able to see a presentation on the prison industrial complex, which was empowering and informative. I held a workshop on activism that centered around grounding oneself with the stakes that keep us organizing and fighting for our vision of justice in the world we live in.

**January 21**

I met with Charlotte and Liv from SUHWG to finalize materials and plans to table the upcoming week to get visibility for SUHWG and and to recruit surveyors for the research we are conducting. Right after this, I attended the first orientation meeting for the Students of Color Conference. I met so many other student leaders and it was well-facilitated by the SUA Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

**January 22**

I went to OPERS with Jessica to finish paperwork in order to be a driver of one of the vans going to SOCC. There was some confusion with the paperwork but we were able to figure it all out. I had office hours right after and also prepared the materials SUHWG needed in order to successfully table in the Quarry. I also met with Noah and Jonathan to finish up some work with SUA communications and budget. I gave a five-minute presentation at the Student Action’s first meeting about my experience and

views about how hard it is to come from a low-income background as a woman of color trying to survive financially in UCSC.

**January 23**

I met with Thao to work on SUHWG business and went to the Council of Chairs Meeting with Jane to speak to the College Government Chairs about Representative responsibilities. I missed the SUA Meeting that night because I drove 3 people to Oakland in order to attend the Regents meeting the next night.

**January 24**

I spent the whole day in UC San Francisco with a few students to be present and agitate the Regents because it was the day that they were going to vote on a tuition hike. Fortunately, it was postponed. However, I am not happy that the conversation is still happening because raising tuition should be a conversation that should be happening in the first place. I, along with other UCSC students could not be present during the vote so we looked for media folks for us to appear in the media and advocate our concerns about how unjust a tuition hike is. We talked were able to appear on the news and a couple newspapers. We also met Berkeley students organizing around this issue. This same day I attended the second orientation meeting for SOCC facilitated by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

**January 25**

I went to the weekly CPB meeting and I also met with my staff to talk about mostly the logistics for SOFA happening on January 26. I took care of the paperwork and other logistics to be able to drive to SOCC the day after. There were some confusion between OPERS and Fleet Services, making the process more complicated but everything worked out.

**January 26**

At 7:30am, I met the SOCC delegation in the Quarry. My co-driver, Simran and I drove a van together with some of the delegates. It was a long drive and we hit a lot of traffic. When we arrived, we ate dinner and met with our delegation. That night, I did some work including homework with a few of the delegates at night. On this same day, SOFA happened. I coordinated with my staff throughout the week and that day. I was happy to hear that the process went well for the most part. I am thankful for my staff for being able to hold it down without me present, which is how it should be.

**January 27-28**

I was in Riverside for SOCC. I was able to meet other students from different campuses and shared valuable spaces with everyone. I am grateful that I got to meet more student leaders from UCSC. However, SOCC was poorly organized. I enjoyed the beginning because they started the day by

honoring indigenous folks who lived on the land we were on and they had a wonderful speaker. Starting off with caucuses who didn’t have the best facilitators opened a lot of trauma and wounds for students including myself. There were so many workshops that were cancelled. There were no vegan and vegetarian options for people and we were sitting outside in the hot sun all day. The worst part was the fact that anti-blackness wasn’t addressed and once again Black students had to go through the labor of making this a part of the conference. It is important to note that anti-blackness exists in all communities and until anti-blackness is addressed, we cannot move forward. The next day, most scholls left. Kat, Simran and Reed handled the situation well and took care of our delegation. UCSC decided that we will be leaving early. For people who wanted to stay for some of the workshops were able to do so and the van I drove stayed last. I thought that this was a good move because the conference wasn’t beneficial to our delegation.

**January 29**

I had office hours and met with folks from the messaging committee. The messaging committee was having issues in pursuing what their vision. Thao and I met with them together and we were able to finalize goals and realized that the messaging committee should be a media collective instead. I met with some people from SUHWG to plan our retreat happening at the end of the week. We made sure that we share our organizing skills with each other in order to make sure everyone is able to accomplish tasks without relying on just one person.

**January 30**

I met with Ashley to plan for an SUA Retreat and to brainstorm and plan for the Vision Committee.

**January 31**

I worked with my staff and Lily, who is one of Alice’s Outreach Interns to finalize the details for the Vision Committee. It was also the first day that we held individual SUA Representative check-ins. We want to make sure that our representatives feel welcomed and have the space to say what they think about SUA and ways we can improve.

**Criticisms and Improvements**

As for myself, I have been overworking my body and emotional capacity. It would be good to start trusting other folks more with work that has been delegated. I need to cut back on traveling if it isn’t necessary because it isn’t leaving me a lot of room to catch up on my work. I am happy with the people and student leaders I have been connecting with. It has been rewarding to work with with such passionate people. Most of my energy has been going into working with the Student Union Housing Working Group and the Vision Committee. I am also happy that SOFA was successful. I need to take better care of myself since I am spearheading a lot of initiatives and being as collaborative as possible is a great goal but it involves constantly around people and holding people accountable, which also takes a lot of work.

As for the Officers, I wish we can foster a better communication. I feel as if there is a lack of communication and miscommunication leading to different tensions. I am open and willing to meet with people who have issues with the way I work or actions I have done, but I will need physical interaction in order to make this happen. I don’t see communicating over email or phone calls as a good way of fixing issues.

For the assembly, I feel like it’s relatively better than the years before but we can always improve and do more. I appreciate the work and thought assembly put into decisions they advocate for and I am excited for the committees to be more active so that assembly members are able to do more than be in meetings. I want to be clear that there is still a lack of training that SUA has provided for everyone so I hope the retreat can alleviate this.

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. My office hours are on Mon: 10-11:30am and Wed: 12-1:30pm.

Cheers,
Max Jimenez
President, Student Union Assembly