



# Student Union Assembly

## Monthly Report

---

SUA Mailstop: SOAR, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz CA 95064 • P: 831.459.4838  
suavpsl@ucsc.edu • sua.ucsc.edu

Hey Y'all!

Under My duties as Vice President of Student Life of the Student Union Assembly and Article III Section A Subsection 6(1) of the SUA Constitution, I present my August 2016 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.

### **August 1<sup>st</sup> Presentation to Admissions Staff**

After meeting briefly during Summer Orientation, Michael McCawley, the Director of Admissions of UCSC, invited me to present to his staff about the Student Union Assembly and our goals for this upcoming year. The presentation was a fairly short 15 minutes and I went over the structure of the assembly, the importance of having lower tuition because at the rate in which tuition is increasing, education is turning into a luxury and not a right. I also discussed how the increased numbers of students they are admitting is contributing to a student's' quality life being lowered due to how impacted living quarters are now. The staff was pretty engaged in the conversation and showed honest concern which is nice to see from administration.

### **August 10<sup>th</sup> Website Content Management Training**

Judith Gutierrez, the Vice President of External Affairs, and I attended the three-hour training on how to update and revise the SUA website.

### **August 11-14<sup>th</sup> UC Student Organizing Summit/Congress**

*"UC Student Congress is an annual conference focused on the intersection of organizing and student issues, creating conversation and teaching skills that students need to be powerful student organizers. It is also where UC students vote on a new campaign for UCSA to organize around for the next two years." –UCSA Website*

Judith Gutierrez, the External Vice President, and myself led the delegation of thirteen undergraduate UCSC students down to Pomona for the annual UC Student Congress. At the congress, the two campaigns that UC decided to collectively organize on were "UC Sustain Our Students" and "reIGNITE". UC Sustain Our Students is focused around food and housing insecurity and reIGNITE is centered on diversifying the UC. If you'd like to get more involved with the campaigns, please contact Judith Gutierrez at [suavpe@ucsc.edu](mailto:suavpe@ucsc.edu) and for more information about the campaigns go to this link: <https://thebottomline.as.ucsb.edu/2016/09/ucsa-launches-dual-campaigns>

**August 15<sup>th</sup> Drop-In Meeting w/ Mario Gonzales**

After the UC Student Organizing Summit, I started researching the potential of having a student run food pantry off campus to increase food accessibility to students. The idea is to have a location located near the Metro Station downtown on Pacific so if a student lived in Capitola or campus, it would take only 1 bus, and any bus, to have access to food. I had the meeting with Mario Gonzalez, Dean of Student Projects Assistant, to pitch the idea and if it was even possible. He scheduled a meeting with Lucy Rojas, the interim Dean of Students, to get more information about the logistics of this project.

**August 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Jose Reyes-Olivas the Events and Facility Manager**

The purpose of the meeting was for Jose and I to get acquainted with each other and to share with him the ideas I have for programming this year. I would like to do more large scale programming and Jose has managed large scale events on campus like the Edge of Eden concert so he is a great resource. From the meeting I learned that the Quarry Amphitheatre is going to be reopened in the Fall of 2017 and he is devoting most of his time to overseeing the project and writing the language to manage that venue. He expressed interest in collaborating on a small scale concert to kick off the Spring quarter. My main concern with having a concert is the cost since the last concert, Edge of Eden, that was hosted by the SUA in 2014 put the assembly in a deficit. If a concert was to be hosted, my goal would be to make it not only cost efficient for the assembly, but under \$15 for students.

**QTPOC Advocacy Board Meeting**

Tracy L. Garcia, the Program Coordinator of the Cantú Queer Center, hosted the meeting with the assistance of Tam Welch, the Gender and Sexuality Specialist, and Travis Becker, the Director of the Cantú Queer Center. The meeting was meant to establish a board to specifically address the needs of Queer and Trans People of color on our campus and conduct programming around such issues. Some of the ideas that spawned from this meeting were having a visibility campaign, hosting listening sessions, and potentially having QTPOC & faculty mentorship program or lecture series with QTPOC faculty. The homework for the meeting was to find folx to feature in the visibility campaign like students, faculty, alumni, and or national figures/activists.

**August 18<sup>th</sup> Alumni Engagement Collaboration Meeting**

Samantha Brandon, the Alumni & Student Outreach Development Coordinator, and Katie Linder, Assistant Director of the Alumni Network, reached out to me to discuss possible collaboration between my office and the Alumni Engagement team. They informed me on what their office does from the Senior Class Council to their Slugfest event, but what interested me the most was their Crowd Funding Program. Their program is like a GoFundMe but the fees are minimal and the fees go to support our campus' staff. The

campaigns that have been hosted through their crowd funding program have been successful and both Samantha and Katie expressed interest in addressing food insecurity on our campus. The SUA could easily do a crowd funding campaign raising money to host a food distribution event or buy fresh produce for students.

**August 19<sup>th</sup> WCMS Open Lab**

Every other Friday at the 2300 Delaware office, there is an open lab to help those edit/update their website on the Web Content Management System. I used those two hours to update and piece together my officer page. My position is a new position so everything had to be manually updated/created and that would have been way too much work to put on our Internal Vice President, Grace Shefcik, who is the only person, besides myself, that updates the website.

**August 20<sup>th</sup> United States Student Association: National Student Congress**

The Congress was supposed to held in Massachusetts but USSA cancelled it because not enough schools registered and instead, they decided to host congress for three hours online. It was poorly organized, a waste of time, and student fees, a waste of \$20,814.50 of student fees every year to be exact.

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> Slug Support Meeting with Erika Pappas**

The last time Erika and I met I was reviewing the excel sheet they provide for students to help them budget. The excel sheet was confusion and cumbersome and I presented Erika my version of a more user friendly excel budget sheet. She liked it and we made plans to move forward with other projects we can work on together. Erika expressed interest in having someone my staff or myself help out with some of their workshops when it comes time for interactive activities. I offered to help generate content and possible activities for students to work on and we planned to share what I thought of the next meeting.

**August 1-31<sup>st</sup> General Office Time – 60+ Hours**

I spent at least 15 hours in the office every week for the month of August to make up for the time that was lost in July when I was working orientation. I spent that time updating some content for the website, sending miscellaneous email, researching more into the food pantry locations, editing intern descriptions, and writing the language for the charter of my committee: Student Life Commission.

**Areas of Improvement**

- Everyone getting the WCMS training. I understand that it is not convenient that the training is an exhausting three hours long and that even after the training, you might have to spend extra time in the open labs to ensure that you know what you are doing because the system is tricky, but the job of an officer is not supposed to be convenient. I am still appalled the people actually

cancelled on going to the training on August 10<sup>th</sup> with no notification or effort to get it rescheduled until weeks later.

- Stop doubling spacing officer reports. If you have nothing to say and if you did nothing for the month, be honest, resign, and stop wasting student fees.
- Officers should be doing their work by themselves. I am confused on why you would have your friends in the office doing your work for you because we have not hired interns and everyone should be capable of handling their own projects by themselves. If you are not capable of managing projects by yourself, why are you here? It seems like shady fair hiring practices to give your friends advantages for future positions. The SUA is not an oligarchy but we will cross that bridge when we get there(:

This concludes my August 2016 officer report. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at [suavpsl@ucsc.edu](mailto:suavpsl@ucsc.edu)

Cheers,

Tamra Owens | Vice President of Student Life