



Student Union Assembly

Monthly Report

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Dear Assembly,

I am so honored and humbled to begin this year as your President, working on strategic planning to create an effective, cohesive, and collaborative year across campus units and the student body.

Under Article III Section A of the SUA Constitution, I am required to present a monthly evaluation to the assembly. This monthly evaluation of March 2019 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. Every item is considered **In Progress**, unless stated otherwise.

Students United with Survivors (SUS)

I sat down and had a fruitful discussion with survivors of sexual assault, and we talked about the culture of perpetrated violence that goes unseen on campus. We were able to pinpoint various arms to which allow these issues to continue, one which happens to be the Title IX office here at Santa Cruz. Because this system that was created to provide protection has been ineffective in aiding survivors, I found it uniquely necessary to create a group dedicated to helping and empowering the survivors on campus. This has led me to create Students United with Survivors, or SUS.

Because of the fragility in the meaning and topic of this group, I have decided not to create any documents that would've governed the group. Rather, after many discussions, I will be appointing our UC-wide Title IX reform board member to coordinate this group. I felt that with my lack of direct experience with sexual assault encounters, my main job in this creation will be to empower them from the Office of the President, sharing the resources of my office and SUA. I believe what makes the appointed coordinator so uniquely qualified, other than her various experiences with sexual violence and sexual assault survivors, is the fact that she quarterly sits with the UC President Janet Napolitano to advise on Title IX policy changes that are seen UC-wide.

Although I will not create a governing document, we will provide a few of SUS's goals, which include but are not limited to:

1. Empower survivors,
2. Create a safe space for survivors,
3. Watchdog the Title IX system,
4. Create campus-wide campaigns to shed light on this hidden systematic operation,

5. Work with CARE, CAASL, Santa Cruz's Commission on the Prevention of Violence Against Women (and other organizations centering on aiding survivors),

6. To create a data collection service and,

7. Create and advocate for permanent policy changes campus and UC-wide.

SUS will be under CAASL. This committee is in progress with the coordinator.

Council of Presidents, Police Initiatives

As SUA President, I sit on the Council of UC student body presidents. This has allowed me to network with all the UCs and determine a few initiatives for us this year.

This past month I attended the CoP meeting, which consisted of incoming and outgoing Presidents.

As our unfinalized meeting approaches, I look to unite all of us in creating various initiatives that will reconstruct the UC Police Department, as I have felt that their presence has added to continual systematic perpetuation of a diaspora of oppression. One of the main goals are to somehow create a check of powers from UCPD to UC campus-wide student governments, meaning SUA would be able to act on injustices from this department. Nothing is finalized and the specifics are incentered, but I am optimistic on this year's CoP powers in creating a more accountable justice system for students of all backgrounds. Initiatives are in progress

UCSC Represents at NAACP National Convention

Thanks to the SUA Vice Presidents and NAACP Youth and College Director, I had the privilege of attending the 109th NAACP Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Here, I was asked to host and moderate workshops dealing with college access and affordability. I also had the opportunity to network with some of the biggest names in politics and entertainment. This networking has led to the development of a police forum on campus, inviting people that have been affected by police violence nationwide. They have agreed to come, and at this point we are looking to plan this forum for later in the year.

I have also decided to create a UCSC NAACP, with hopes of expanding to a UC-wide NAACP. Although it has no specific relationship to SUA, I felt that this be included so the Assembly is aware of what I spend my time on.

More about my trip and the workshop I hosted can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LlI-GseXFuHexc6UQfgFhESyxduZ4qv5fiAIYC_6bE4/edit?usp=sharing

Finance Board

Under Article V. Section B. Part 5 of the SUA Constitution, the SUA is required to have a finance board, where "A. The President shall serve as the chair of the Finance Board". This board was not convened last year. I look to execute all of my presidential duties, including establishing this board, appointing the treasurer as my Vice Chair. I will also be expanding the duties of this board, creating a subcommittee on Fundraising and Student Scholarships. I hope to also build a relationship between this committee and Slug Support. The Finance Board will be open to any SUA Assemblymember who is interested in raising funds for student scholarships while ensuring stable use of funds by the Assembly and the Executives.

Officer Retreat

Reviewing last year's officer core and the operations of the SUA, I felt it especially necessary and needed to have an officer retreat that both equips the Executive team with strategies and instruments to effectively serve their terms, and to create a strong foundational relationship between the officers. I am in the process of creating this retreat with the SOAR Director and the Dean of Students, potentially set to be in the middle of August. At this retreat, we will discuss more about an Assembly Retreat.

SUA Revamp

SUA has had its long history of dislike from the student body due to rumors of elitism, open-ended hostility, and a non-existing image. This year the officer core has made it a mission to revamp the SUA. This includes what the student body sees as SUA and how we can internally rid of continuous toxicity. Externally, I have been working on a few videos that will potentially foster an SUA image with positive characters and personality. We are set to film in the middle -to end- of August. The SUA logo is also under reconstruction.

This year I have decided to hold more office hours outside of SUA in hopes of increasing interactions between SUA, the Office of the President, and students. Hopefully, we can answer as many questions as time permits and have an increased trust/ transparency with the student body. Major strides for the SUA revamping will be held during our officer retreat.

Office of the President Staff

After rigorous revisions and research for what I need, I have finally finalized the office's staff members. In total, the Office of the President will have six interns:

- Associated Vice Executive to the President
- SUA Director of Technology & Communications
 - CAASL Coordinator
 - Parliamentarian
 - Treasurer
 - Recording Clerk

I am working on creating a separate position for organizers of the housing crisis, which may be introduced to SUA in the fall.

Family Separation Statement

Introduced by myself, the officer core had voted to work on a statement regarding the actions of the Trump Administration on separating undocumented families. I will be working with the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion to draft this. The statement is in progress.

Criticisms and Improvements

1. **Transition of Change:** The transition of changing positions within the Dean of Students' office has led to a unique struggle by the SUA this month. It has been hard to get Travel Advance Requests, PO's, pay, and it has even become a challenge to update the SUA website. The officers have been met with various obstacles that were not present last year, and I would recommend that there be an increased and constant communication between the DoS office. It may even be more helpful if there was someone who can always take the place of an SUA advisor. I believe that would tremendously help when there is any

transition in jobs. The officers should never have to endure the consequences of Admin decisions regarding staff.

2. **Lack of communication between UCSC admin and officer core:** To be the official voice of the undergraduate student body and not be met with any introductions from admin has been a concern of mine. If we are to ensure effective communication between the SUA and Admin, then there needs to be outreach from both sides and not just our side.
3. **Thrown into the Lion's den:** As SUA President, I have certain duties that require me to be apart of various meetings across campus. The transition of my presidency has been over all good, but there has been a lack in briefing about the committees on which I will serve. It is even harder to try and plan my schedule for the year when I do not know the other 6 committees I have been required to serve on. Again, this is an outreach issue from Administration. When the meetings come up, I will bring this issue to the attention of the chairs and have them do better for next year's President.
4. **Physical meetings:** Because our schedules have been booked, it has been challenging to physically get all officers to each meeting. We did use Google Hangout to communicate most of the time. I also know that it is only July, and so from here on out, officers should largely be meeting in person. I will keep the Assembly updated.

This year I found a few successes in comparison to last year's core. One of them were officer meetings. Last year, the first officer meeting was held two weeks into the officers' terms, inhibiting effective communication and allocating all the work of orientation to the Vice President of Student Life without constant check-ins. In total, the officers had three meetings in July. This year, the officer team has met twice as much in the same time span, once in June before our term and five times in July. We met on the first day of July to ensure that everyone was on the same page and that we could constantly communicate together. Not one officer has ever been left out of a meeting. Although a small feat, I find this greatly successful, and may prelude to the collaboration of what's to come this year. I am very proud of the officers for their constant engagement and deliberation on urgent topics, and I wish to continue this movement.

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 Mondays and Wednesdays from 12-3PM, by appointment.

I look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

In solidarity,

Ayo Banjo

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced" - James Baldwin

