



# Student Union Assembly

## Monthly Report

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Dear Assembly,

Under Article III Section A of the SUA Constitution, I am required to present a monthly evaluation to the assembly. This monthly evaluation of December, 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.

### **Housing Letter to administration regarding Lack of student voice**

In December, I released a letter campus-wide on behalf of the SUA criticizing certain UCSC administration for not including the student voice adequately in the process of allocating 2.7 million dollars to housing-related needs. My letter can be found below:

*Dear Vice Chancellor for Planning and Budget, Peggy Delaney, Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Services, Sarah Latham, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Herbie Lee, and Vice Provost for Student Success, Jaye Padgett:*

*In light of the 2.7 million dollar housing allocation to UC Santa Cruz, the SUA Office of the President has found it critical to bring public awareness to our concerns with this funding process.*

*In context for students, every UC will receive a housing allocation of 1.5 million dollars, and based on the dollars per student and percentage weight of campus Pell Grant recipients, UCSC will, in addition, receive 1.1 million dollars, totaling our campus allocation to 2.7 million dollars this year. These funds are stipulated for addressing student, faculty, and/or staff housing needs; for development of housing-related studies; and/or capital improvements.*

*The process of selecting the winning proposal is of major concern. We the SUA have been asked to “provide a single response with feedback on proposals provided from various constituent groups”. Seeing that students are most vulnerable to the impact of the egregious and unaffordable Santa Cruz housing market, we must ask how the funding proposals will be weighed. Will student’s preferred proposals be given more priority, or weighed more heavily?*

*Despite the limited possibility to effectively collect an accurately- represented student decision within the time period provided, another major concern stems from the confusion in how funds are being spent from last year’s allocation.*

Last year, UCOP provided UCSC with 3 million dollars in housing allocations. Below is the breakdown of how those funds were allocated:

<b>PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2017-18</b>				
<b>Item #</b>	<b>Targeted Group (Students, Staff, or Faculty)</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Conduct study of low income student housing</b>	<b>Inform campus practices, establish resources, and Improve housing outcomes for our students.</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Increase funding for existing Slug Support Emergency Housing program</b>	<b>Support an increasing number of students experiencing short-term housing insecurity.</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Students, Staff, and Faculty</b>	<b>Revamp Community Rental web portal</b>	<b>Increase usefulness of this self-service resource.</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Establish first year doctoral student housing allowance</b>	<b>Support new Ph.D. students with an allowance to help the transition into the Santa Cruz housing market.</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Establish transfer student housing allowance</b>	<b>Support new transfer students with an allowance to help the transition into the Santa Cruz housing market.</b>	<b>\$1,250,000</b>

Seeing that there were one million dollars allocated for establishing a first-year doctoral student housing allowance (row 4), we are curious to know where that money has been spent, and why this same project is requesting another four-hundred thousand (\$400,000) dollars when students have not been informed on how the

*current funds are being spent? How are students aware of this service? What department is overseeing the distribution? What are the data points of impact for this service?*

*In another housing allocation last year, 1.25 million dollars were allocated to “Support new transfer students with an allowance to help the transition into the Santa Cruz housing market” (row 5). Where are those funds currently; who are the decision-makers?; Is there data to show the impact on the services rendered to students? And why is this same project requesting another three-hundred thousand (\$300,000) dollars when students have not been informed on how the current 1.25 million funds are being spent? What office is rendering the services to students?*

*Other areas of inquiry: (1). These two projects have been sorted as the first two listed proposals on the “Housing Assistance Allocation – Evaluation and Submission of Project Proposals” google form. Who decides which proposals are listed first? What were the criteria used to document the proposals in such order? And (2). In reference to the housing proposal, the transfer project is asking for 1.25 million dollars, but on the google form, the number it shows being requested is 1 million dollars. What happened to the two hundred and fifty thousand (\$250,000) dollars that were initially requested? What is the actual figure?*

*This housing proposal had been communicated to certain UCSC administrators on October 3rd. The first email communication sent to the SUA Office of the President was on December 10th, almost ten weeks later, and the week students are locked in finals. And an expected “single response” is required by January 11th, 4 days after the first day of school. These questions delve into a larger issue, with a lack in efficient process and assessment transparency of past and current proposal allocations, and a rushed proceeding with no provided mediation suggestions to maximize student engagement with the fast-approaching timeline.*

*We hope to continue bridging the communication gap between students and administration, and anticipate a clarified response within 7 days.*

### **Quarterly CPC and College Government Chairs Meeting**

As per the constitution, my office convened all college government chairs and their CPCs, as well as the SUA Advisor, to ensure proper transparency and communication is had with all direct constituents of the SUA. Some of the important conversations of the meeting are below

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- Issues with basic needs funding
  - Consult with students so folks know how funding gets allocated
  - 2.6 million dollars received - now can budget how to allocate
  - Miscommunication from admin lead to missing deadline last week sunday
  - UCOP extended deadline to Dec 14th
  - Dead week and Finals week means there is not enough time to address student participation or voice in this budget
  - Admin is supposed to convene with SUA, but this was not done
  - SUA was not able to meet with students to get their feedback
  - Next step is to push the deadline

- Policy Task Force
  - Input from chairs - ways in which students can get involved in the policy task revisions - how we can engage them in the last week of Finals and the first few weeks of Winter Quarter
  - Policy issues - police task force assembled document of revisions from other UC campuses, but it seems they've approached their finalization stage.
  - SUA Office of the President to work with Senate Chairs to decide how to address policy revisions
  - Ideas: submit recommendations on a document

#### SUA President Report to Chairs

- Summer
  - Create a foundation for Officers through retreat, fair hiring practices, Cal State Bakersfield and other campuses came to visit
  - Focused on building SUA Office of the President (SUA OP) structure
  - Build a booklet of Officer responsibilities and duties and share this with Reps
  
- Fall
  - Concert
    - City on a Hill Press (CHP) - Communicate with them that there was misinformation; Wanted to set up a meeting with them to clear misinformation; talked to them before they sent out their story, but they already sent it out; there was no attempt to solve the misinformation from CHP
    - Tried to communicate with as many student spaces as possible to resolve the issue with the concert
    - SUA OP is looking for is mediating conversation so that SUA has a better relationship with CHP; important to have relationship
      - Have to take more steps to make sure students feel empowered and heard
  - Restructuring SUA
    - The space from SUA OP perspective is getting better
    - But there is still a large group of people who are not engaged
    - SUA OP wants to make sure communication with Reps and Chairs is strong
    - SUA OP wants to continue those conversations throughout Winter Quarter
    - Structure and Accountability - guiding Ayo and Officers and some Reps create something long-lasting
      - SUA protocol and guidelines: constitution and bylaws
        - Protocol - hiring of Officers (i.e. IVP), etc.
          - Should be able to bring outside experience to hiring process; cannot bring outside perspective; Some reps feel should be able to bring outside experience to hire the best candidate

- Create a list of grey areas - present document to SUA with 50 + 1, implement into SUA
    - Guidelines - how we should be approaching specific topics
      - Event - always have food at any SUA event- amount of food insecurity is large; prioritize ensure that its there by getting donations, coordinating with other collaborators, do not necessarily have to pay for this all the time
    - Protocols or Guidelines about proper spending for the concert
      - When quorum is not established, it goes up in the air
      - Constitution - not that its unconstitutional, just not defined
      - SUA isn't the same in the summer because only the Officers are there, no reps
      - Make the protocol a binding one to implement into next year
      - Don't establish quorum from the summer, Officers can only touch a sum of money
      - Does the parliamentarian host any meetings with constitution?
- Vision Committee
  - Vision Committee has been around 2-3 years; going to be launched in Winter Quarter
    - Rep Emma - part of vision committee last year, does have access to documents for institutional knowledge
    - Collect data that they want to see and present this to SUA; guidelines or amendments to the constitution and bylaws
  - Committee is open towards the entire public
  - Chair - leaning towards an SUA representative
- SUA Advisor wants to be more accessible in Winter Quarter
  - More 1:1's, holding office hours happening next quarter
  - Conflict Resolution Mediation training happening early Winter Quarter; SUA OP and Advisor connected to Nancy (Director) to customize a workshop, more details to come early in Winter Quarter
  - Know that SUA reps, can come to SUA Advisor
- Display on Social Media
  - Become a hostile environment
  - Officer Agreement - document to share and create guidelines
  - Colleges - get inspiration, get guidelines for how to navigate complexity on social media
    - SUA OP open to hearing ideas from Chairs

## Chancellor Search and Maximizing Student Voices

- Not that many student voices
- Wants to meet about how to get more students voices heard - it's important to get student voices
  - Plan on hosting a Town Hall in Winter Quarter
  - Students to pitch what they want to see in the Chancellor
  - Clarifications about the search process, challenges
- Potential collaboration demanding UCOP to take more initiatives to include more students

## Completed Tasks

- Continued Chancellor Search
- Discussed with students at Chancellor Search Town Hall
- Held the SUA Bonding Holiday Event with all Officers and interns
- Began SUA Treasurer Search

## Criticisms and Improvements

Miscommunication is the greatest issue still within the SUA, with the sharing of wrongful information about happenings, and representatives not communicating at all with their spaces. College governments must play a stronger and more proactive role in ensuring that their representatives are being held accountable. The SUA can only dismiss representatives, an action that should be decided by their college instead.

SUA Officers must learn that, in the heat of tensions and potential chaos, we are here for one another and support each other through the difficulties. The more that the Officers are separated and bickering, the more the toxicity falls into the SUA. We must lead by example by overcoming our personal pride to meet and discuss how we move forward, how we heal together, and how we, rather than ignore our flaws, take those flaws with us to show our own vulnerabilities and humanity.

This concludes my report. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [suapres@ucsc.edu](mailto:suapres@ucsc.edu) and I'd be happy to have a discussion with you. My office hours will be updated in the Fall by appointment.

Best,



**Ayo Banjo**