



# Student Union Assembly

## Monthly Report

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Dear Assembly,

Happy Black History Month! Under Article III Section A of the SUA Constitution, I am required to present a monthly evaluation to the assembly. This monthly evaluation of February, 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.

Due to the time restraint and for accommodation purposes, I will utilize bullet points as my main report back form for this report.

### **SUA at the United Nations**

With the support from the Dean of Students Office and Executive Vice Chancellor Tromp, I had the opportunity to attend the United Nations Global Engagement Summit in New York City, where I represented UCSC students to global policy makers, relaying our priorities for climate change policies to be met by the year 2030. At this event, I met over a thousand student leaders across the nation, working to advance the lives and general welfare of their communities through prioritizing the basic needs and health of their environment. Climate change continues to become a climate crisis, putting the lives of all our youth generation and the human population at risk. That is why I felt it was critical to use my position, and elevate the voices of our students to the national stage and global platform. The SUA Presidency is as impactful as the person makes it, and I believe we must engage the voices of our UCSC students in larger platforms to ignite systematic and cultural changes. I was grateful to have spoken with the Executive Director of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, Mr. Whatley, and discuss further ways we as students can make larger impacts on the climate conversation, with or without the United Nations.

### Completed Tasks

- Meeting with EVC Marlene Tromp to discuss housing fund allocation as well as student concerns on campus
- Completed the job search for a Treasurer for the SUA, and successfully hired our new Treasurer Raphael Cheng.
- Met with the Student Organizing Funding Advisory, where newly-hired Treasurer Cheng chaired his first meeting. I provided an orientation for his position, as well walked the committee through best methods of dispersing funds.

- Continued my commitment to representing over 17,000 undergraduate students on the UCSC Chancellor search committee.
- Met with Students United with Renters to continue talks on organizing post-midterm elections, and joining forces between the Santa Cruz local government and the Student Union Assembly on joint actions.
- Met with Melissa Harris-Perry at the Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation to discuss necessary changes at the University level to increase diversity initiatives for UCSC.
- Organized with the Slug Movement to assemble a policy allowing for students to sleep in their cars on campus.
- Discussed with Chancellor Blumenthal the concerns of our students sleeping in their cars on campus, and advocated for UCSC administration to begin a safe parking program for our houseless students. Also, we discussed reigniting relationships between the SUA and the UCSC Alumni Council, as well as touring the UCSC Silicon Valley Extension Campus to learn more about how students can get involved there.
- Met with the Student Regent and the UC Council of Student Body Presidents in regards to the removal of a representative position on the Board of Regents, the Student Advisor to the Regent.

### Criticisms and Improvements

The SUA must improve its attendance. Some Representatives are not committing to notifying the Parliamentarian when they expect to miss a meeting

We should work on discussing ways to improve attendance.

I also find it critical to bring to light some of the concerns that our black students have with the SUA space, sharing their feeling of uncomfortability and lack of safety in the space. I recognize that myself being a black leader is not enough for the space to feel welcoming to our community, and so we must ensure that everyone in are space is doing their human duty to ensure that biases and perceptions are in check. Many say that Robert's Rules of Order, in itself, perpetuate certain forms of white supremacy by having language that narrowly only includes certain individuals who have access to the information of its operation, which non-people of color tend to have more experience with. I have sent an order to the Parliamentarian to lighten their enforcement of Robert's Rules, and allow more flexibility for students who don't have as much experience in the space, to be given the room to express themselves in whatever way they feel comfortable.

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 Winter by appointment.

In Solidarity,

**Ayo Banjo**