



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 April, 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.

Police Advisory Board

At the beginning of April, I met with Police Chief Nader Oweis to discuss the police presence at an AFSCME strike, centering the conversation on the police's use of force, and their targeting of organizational leaders by arresting a certain member of the protesting students. We discussed how much it costs to contract police from outside to aid UCSC police officer. From the most recent estimates, UCPS spends about half a million dollars contracting outside police. I voiced my disdain for the cost and their interference in UCSC protesting activities. I also advocated that the organizers of each protest and UCPD communicate before protests occur to ensure no students are arrested by the officers, and that undocumented students are given much more protection from being arrested by police.

Destination Higher Education

Thanks to the Black Student Union, I as SUA President had the opportunity to engage with our prospective incoming freshman class of black students, mentoring folks about their possibilities to explore at UCSC, and perhaps meeting a future SUA President from the bunch. It is always inspiring to see such young folks wanting to get involved in student government, and will hopefully continue to retain our communities of color who attend UCSC. The SUA must continue to play a stronger role in ensuring the massive recruitment and stable retention rates of our most marginalized students.

Labor Commission Creation

With inspiration from UC San Diego, I met with the Worker Student Solidarity Coalition (WSSC) to pitch my idea of creating a SUA Committee on Student Worker Protections, or as referred to as the Labor Commission. With enthusiasm, our conversation led to WSSC drafting up legislation to help bring our ideas into the institutionalization of the SUA. The legislation will be up for a vote next month.

UC Council of Presidents meeting

With our final UC Council of President's meeting, my constituents and I spent the time following up on important initiatives from last meeting, as well as solidifying action steps for next year and so forth. After discussing my agenda item on Anti-Blackness and UCPD Accountability, the UC Office of the President has agreed to meet with black student leaders across all the UC's, regularly in order to better communication and hear the demands of BSU's across all ten UC's. We also discussed the status of CARE funding, which will be funded into the next year. I also vocalized my unwavering support for our LGBTQ+ Students, ensuring inclusive language is respected within classrooms and on exam options for documenting students' identities. My fellow graduate president constituent hit on creating opportunities for our undocumented students, in particular the graduate students who are ineligible for other federal funding and rely on grants to keep them in grad school. We went over the SVSH Policy and Research, received updates on the CA Governor Newsom's may revise, ensured the basic needs security of our campuses, and followed-up on the prioritization of the Needs of Students and Workers in regards to AFSCME's unmet contract.

Other Completed Tasks:

- Met with former Dean of Students T.M. Mosley
- Met with all UCSC campus food pantries in an effort to integrate the work being done across campus.
- Launched the SUA Elections packet and began proceedings to hire our Elections Board
- Completed our April SOFA, as well scheduled a second SOFA meeting in May, to increase opportunities for organizations to apply for funds
- Met with Snail Movement to discuss data on houseless students on campus.

Criticisms and Improvements

I have noticed that certain officers have been lagging in attending officer meetings, both on time or sometimes an impromptu call-in without early notice. Officers had communicated with me earlier in the year to schedule meetings at least one week in advance. Beginning winter quarter, I have scheduled all Officer meetings by the beginning of the quarter. Communication is a continuous improvement between all Officers.

We also did not meet quorum at the last SUA meeting of winter quarter. We must confirm the participation of all SUA members before each meeting, and hold other members accountable for not representing their constituents, specifically those who did not notify the Parliamentarian.

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.

In solidarity,

Ayo Banjo

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

Baldwin