



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 August, 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.

Freshman Orientation

Planning the Frosh orientation for our incoming students was, at first, exciting. Being cooped up in the office all summer had been uneventful, so it was great being able to engage with more people than the ones I saw everyday. I enjoyed meeting all the freshman, with their bright smiles and original positive energies, and I think I met some future SUA members who showed interest in getting involved. I spent my time telling my story to them, the story of being a freshman and running for SUA President, and it was inspiring to see the surprising looks on their faces light up! I also spoke at Freshman orientation, as all the officers rotated throughout the duration, and a mother came up to me with tears on her face saying she was so nervous for her daughter, but after the speech, she can remain a little more comfortable knowing that there are other students looking out for her. Other students talked to me more about my story, and their story that they have embarked on by also attending higher education. These type of moments remind me why I do this work, why I love doing this work, and what impact I can make on others coming after me.

SUA Officer Retreat

In the month of August, I hosted the SUA Officer retreat. Being the first retreat I ever hosted, it was as much a learning experience as it was fun. Early in the morning, many officers seemed to not be in the mood to have an engaging retreat and some wanted to sleep. But as the days went on, the retreat itself allowed for the SUA officers to bond, as we had the opportunity to learn more about one another. I contracted a videographer to shoot an intro video with all the officer, with a family matters theme that gave us all the opportunity to express our creativity in a fun project. I do with that we had an Adviser to host the retreat, instead of me, as I wanted to focus more on engaging with my officers than on facilitating workshops and activities. Overall, the two-day retreat ended with dinner and a little movie night in the office that will forever be a memory to revisit in the future.

SUA Adviser Search

After spending over 25 hours on creating, facilitating, and hosting interviews for candidates interested in being the SUA Adviser, we finished off the month of April with our last interview. I chaired the search committee with the head of KZSC, and we will be spending early september narrowing down candidates, offering a job to a person, and transitioning them into their first day as the new Student Development and Engagement Manager, also known as and hereby referred to as the SUA Adviser.

Other Completed Tasks:

- Met with UCSC Title IX Advisory Board Representative to discuss ways the SUA can play a larger role in protecting students going through sexual violence and harrasment on campus, as well learn more about the work CAPS, CARE, and the board does in progressing the fight towards protection. This also includes meeting with leaders from Students United with Renters.
- Attended housing teach-in to learn more about the housing crisis in Santa Cruz, the strides made to mediate the struggle, and the reasons for it's continuous failures to protect the students most at risk of homelessness.
- Met with Dean of Students to discuss potential collaborations between the division and SUA, as well bridge the communication gap between students and administration.
- Had conference calls with undergraduate student body presidents from UC Berkeley, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UCLA, and UC Riverside.
- Met with External Affairs Vice President Davon Thomas to focus on voter mobilization initiatives for fall quarter.

Criticisms and Improvements

It was difficult facilitating the Student Union Assembly institution without having a SUA staff person to initiate all the transfers. I had to take on the role as the SUA adviser, as well as approving all financial transactions from each officer, and collaborating with the Dean of Students' Financial Analyst to process the transactions. Being so new to the job, it was a bit overwhelming but a learning opportunity for us all.

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

