



Student Union Assembly

Monthly Report

SUA Mailstop: SOAR, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz CA 95064 • P: 831.459.4838
suapres@ucsc.edu • sua.ucsc.edu

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 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.

Title IX Progress

At the beginning of March, I had the opportunity to sit with my fellow Vice President of Internal Affairs, Citlalli Aquino, as we frequently partnered up in order to address the most critical needs of our students at risk of sexual violence or harassment. We sat with Isabel Dees, the Director of Title IX on campus, to discuss the policy around non-consensual nudity exposure, and what happens when somebody makes another student feel uncomfortable or at risk in the moment of exposing themselves. This was in regards to a particular incident that occurred at the CASFS Farm. We also discussed what punishments occur when a Title IX investigator makes consistent mistakes in a case, and puts the students at jeopardy due to that mistake. We learned that Title IX currently has no disciplinary measures for their investigators, an issue I voiced and said must change. We will be following up with a meeting that focuses on adding policy initiatives that hold investigators accountable for their actions, creating a middle ground between being let go and having no punishment whatsoever.

UC Council of Presidents Meeting

Quarterly, I meet with all of my UC student body president constituents, both undergrad and graduate students, in conjunction with UC President Janet Napolitano, in an effort to jointly advocate for our students UC-wide. At this March meeting, we discussed Title IX systemwide changes, Support for Black Students and Continued Condemnation of Anti-Blackness, Undocumented Student Support Follow-Up, the UC Emergency Response Task Force in regards to the fires that broke out in California and its impact to student's lives, Systemwide CAPS Re-investment, UC Police policy changes through the Advisory Task Force, Basic Needs Security and the continuation of integrated-funded food pantries, and the prioritization of a contract with UC AFSCME workers by echoing our support for the workers' asks.

UCSC Chancellor Search

After months of deliberation, we finally interviewed about eight candidates for the position of Chancellorship in San Jose, CA. Each candidate received about 45 minutes to an hour of questioning,

where I focused on questions pertaining to the candidate's view on activism, their commitment to social justice and increasing campus diversity, and their overall intentions for wanting to work at Santa Cruz.

The committee ended up with three top finalists, two of which were my top favorites as well. I also brought forth student's concerns of Chancellor searches not being transparent enough, and offered an alternative where candidate interviews be released to the student body, allowing the students to have the opportunity to both criticize and vote on their top candidate's response. This would give students other than the one that represents all 17,000+ a chance to participate in the search by directly voicing their opinion on a Chancellor.

EVC Meeting

My regular meeting with Executive Vice Chancellor Marlene Tromp centered on disciplinary actions for professors perpetuating sexual violence in the engineering department, learning more about the process of the investigative timeline, and voicing student concerns with the inaccessibility of the process overall. I brought awareness to the racism currently undertaking in the Theatre Arts department when it comes to the attacks on the African-American Theatre Arts Troupe. We also discussed finding permanent funding for Engaging Education, police involvement in strike activities, and voicing our concerns for the childcare facility rates to ensure it is kept stabilized, and to some degree lowered, when the new Student Housing West project undertakes.

Other Completed Tasks:

- Met with the Division of Student Success and Vice Provost Jaye Padgett in regards to the inefficient communication between administration and the student body.
- Served on the Long Range and Development Plan, discussing the layout of the UCSC campus through 2040.
- Visited the UCSC Silicon Valley Extension Campus to learn more about opportunities for students on campus, as well as learn how the SUA may partner with the extension campus to improve the educational experience of students wishing to work in Silicon Valley for internships or post-graduation.

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