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 October, 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.

SUA Concert and Tensions

This month has been one of the most challenging and difficult months I have experienced in this job, testing the boundaries of my capacity and the strength of my leadership. The big 5 identity organizations protested the SUA in regards to the allocation of funds that the officers made in July. Headed by the Vice President of Student Life, the concert brought thousands of students together to witness Sage the Gemini perform at the quarry amphitheater. But the big 5 organizations in particular felt that the money allocation could've gone to better use other than the concert, as some SUA members felt that the money allocation should've first come to the Assembly for a vote. My first mistake as a leader was not ensuring that the financial transaction went through when I knew I did not feel comfortable with funding such a large event without enough Assembly voices. Although I tried to convene SUA elected members in the summer, only 3 out of the 10 members showed up to vote whether we should fund additional money to the concert. I should have said no in the first place, and for that, I do take responsibility and apologize to all my student constituents for that matter. Below I have attached a letter on behalf of the SUA Officers in regards to the concert funding:

The Student Union Assembly (SUA) Officers have drafted this statement in response to the concerns surrounding concert funds & organizational programming. The SUA's carry-forward funds used to host the free concert was originally intended to encourage UCSC spirit through this back-to-school event. It was our mistake for making that decision over summer. From the SUA officer core to everyone, we do apologize for not waiting to include more voices in the moment decisions were being made. Though past, there are miscommunicated information that has been circling about the SUA budget. Hopefully this email clears up some crucial details about SUA funding this year.

The Student Organization Funding Advisory (SOFA) is a body within SUA that does most-to-all of it's funding for every student organization and ethnic group.
Over the past 3 years, SOFA funds have increased by 200%, giving SUA the most capacity this year to fund specifically organizations.

Ethnic organizations usually apply to SOFA, where most financial grants are awarded. On average, Ethnic Organizations utilize about 46% of SOFA funds. Abstractly maintaining that same percentage this year, there are more funds available for organizations this year. Inevitably, a portion of funds end up not in use and return back to the SUA budget.
Finally, the SUA had created a separate line item specifically for Organizations or SUA members to take students to leadership conferences, organizing summits, or UC Regents meetings.

The total SUA budget accessible to all organizations in the President's Revision is over $100,000, including the President's anticipated scholarship funds, with over 7 pots of funds to choose from. The total in SUA's current budget version is about $81,000.

We still understand that this in no way makes the concert funds more digestible. And so a current governing document is being made, anticipating collaboration from any registered student organization interested, to re-prioritize carryforward funds in the budget.

SOFA will also resume accordingly once the budget has been passed in the SUA.

We want to continue sharing the priorities we have made in the budget, specifically and predominantly for organizations. Being the first SUA Officer Core with all people from historically marginalized backgrounds, we believe in the empowerment of our intersecting communities as a campus. The SUA will continue to remain an open space for any potential collaborations, or any recommendations for governing document changes.

Although this matter is not over, we wish the best to you all on your midterms. We will update you all on the status of ongoing demands.

Student Union Assembly Officers

VPIA Resignation
On top of an already difficult month, I received a notice that our democratically-elected Vice President of Internal Affairs, Keshav Kumar will be resigning in the coming days. It is unfortunate to see him leave, but I give him the best wishes and hope to receive support from past Chairs of the Student Committee on Committees on how best to operate the space. It is also a challenge, since I have never participated or engaged with SCOC, to now be the Chair.

UC Council of Presidents Meeting
At our first quarterly meeting with all Student Body Presidents across the UC system, and with join participation from UC President Janet Napolitano and her UC Office of the President, we met for the first time in October to discuss many of the initiatives we agreed on at the Council of Presidents retreat. Below are the biggest takeaways from the meeting:

Basic Needs Security
- The Regents are discussing Basic Needs at the November Regents meeting, where they will consider including basic needs funding as part of the University's funding request to the state.
- UCOP will consider using a proportional framework to disburse future funding (e.g., new state funds, etc.) to the campuses to support basic needs security.
- Student Development & Engagement, in collaboration with Basic Needs Security Committee members Ruben Canedo and Tim Galarneau, will work with UCOP HR to explore whether graduate student workers can be reclassified so they can qualify for CalFresh during the entire year, not just during the summer.

Undocumented Student Support
- Student Development & Engagement will work with UCLA to ensure that undocumented student coordinators at each campus are familiar with UCLA's Presidential Fellowship Program for Undocumented Students, and facilitate discussion to explore how each campus can adopt a similar program.
- The Council of Student Body Presidents will share with Student Development & Engagement the list they compiled of best practice programming for undocumented students.
- UCOP will consider using a proportional framework to disburse future funding (e.g., new state funds, etc.) to the campuses to support undocumented student programs and services.

Support for Parenting Students
- Institutional Research and Academic Planning will collect and summarize existing data on student parents and produce an analysis by spring 2019.
- Institutional Research and Academic Planning will review what existing questions if any, identify student parents, and look to add additional questions on student parents to the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) and Graduate Wellbeing Survey.

UC SVSH Policy Revisions
- Student Development & Engagement will explore additional meeting/conference call opportunities with the Council of Student Body Presidents during this quarter.

Voter Registration
- President Napolitano will ask the Chief of Information Technology Services to begin preparing for implementation of systemwide automatic voter registration prior to the 2020 Presidential election.
- Student Development & Engagement will work with campuses to ensure there is at least one polling place on every campus by the 2020 Presidential election.
- President Napolitano will send out a letter that supports student voter registration and get out the vote efforts for future elections.
- The Council of Student Body Presidents will provide Student Development & Engagement with a list of voter registration best practices that UC Santa Barbara has compiled.
- Student Development & Engagement will share with UC campuses the list of voter registration best practices that UC Santa Barbara compiled.

Other Completed Tasks

- Hired all Office of the President staff members
- Hosted Rise up & VOTE to interview Santa Cruz City Council Member candidates
- Attended the Police Chief Advisory Board in regards to proposed policy changes
- Promoted Voter Registration forms and Get-Out-The-Vote initiatives
- Met with UC Regents during their visit to UCSC, as we discussed the most critical help that UCSC students need, from housing security to basic needs discussions.

Criticisms and Improvements

The Student Union Assembly has much work to do moving forward from an intense month. As we self reflect on ways to be better servant leaders, I will continue to reflect on ways I can be a stronger, more open, more transparent and vulnerable leader. I've learned the importance of making sure students can get the opportunity to review budgetary actions before we move forward with large expenses, and I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow in the position. No leader is perfect, but to yearn for growth is to take the right step to a more effective and healthy democracy.

With the resignation of the Internal Affairs Vice President, it is difficult to balance both my full-time job as President, my full-time status as a student, and now my additional duties to Chair the Student Committee on Committees, being the new Interim Internal Affairs Vice President. I believe that the constitution should be changed, allowing for the President to appoint someone as an interim, rather than having the President additionally serve as an interim.

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. My office hours will be updated in the Fall by appointment.

In Solidarity,

Ayo Banjo

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