

# Monthly Report (Combined for October and November, 2014)

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Under my duties as a college representative to the Student Union Assembly and according to Article III Section A. 11 of the SUA Constitution, I present my combined October and November monthly report and evaluation to the Assembly. I will provide an update on the happenings of my college, College Nine, updates on ongoing SUA projects I am involved with, and constructive criticisms of the SUA for the purposes of improvement.

## Senate Activity

- Met with Deana Slater and other admin to continue discussion from last year on expanding wifi in the C9/C10 res halls. We still haven't heard back from ITS on a quote so conversation deferred indefinitely. Again.
- C9 has a new logo with a new apparel line coming soon.
- We are going to fund the HOPE International Music Festival again this year and have committed to being more involved and really turning it into a great event. We are looking into having an artist come in and create some high-quality 3D chalk art in front of the event while the music is playing.
- We have decided to have a senate-organized passive campaign around water conservation. I have reached out to CALPIRG and the sustainability office about partnering up with them but have not heard back from either group in some time. Senate will probably proceed on its own.
- The College Newspaper Readership Program has unexpectedly disappeared. Their phone number has gone dead and the office seems to no longer exist. Our advisor is hot on its trail however, and we should track them down soon.
- We held emergency elections for our External Vice President office and Sam Shaw, our interim EVP won.
- HOPE themes are currently being discussed and we are taking ideas.

## SUA Activity

- We began the year in an unforeseen deficit so most of the programming plans I had worked on over the summer were rendered moot while we cut money from the line item. I'm now looking into more low-cost programming options.
- I recommended a few bylaw changes to streamline our fiscal situation. The first deals with how we replenish our reserves in case we need to use them and the second changes the allocation of money into the reserves and general fund so that we have more money available each year.
- Helped the EVC office conduct interviews for the Outreach & Engagement and Legislative Liaison intern positions.

- I drove down to Merced to attend the UCSA Board Meeting being held at the Students of Color Conference along with my fellow C9 rep, Sam Shaw, to hear what the plan was regarding the proposed tuition increases.
- I introduced a resolution against the proposed tuition hikes during the emergency SUA meeting and it was adopted the following week. I am following up with SUA Chair Justin Lardinois on the letters he is supposed to draft as a result of the resolution.
- Proposed amendment to the Programming Evaluation Form so that there is now a space on the form for an SUA member or affiliate to provide their comments on the event. The purpose of this is to encourage SUA attendance at events we sponsor and also to verify that the report was accurate.
- I was heavily involved with the initial organization around the protests against tuition hikes. I helped the OD and EVC COD organize and run the initial public forum where we informed students about what happened and the public decided what actions they wanted to take. I also organized, facilitated, and spoke at the first rally action we held in the quarry plaza.
- I also suggested a procedural change during meetings in which we take a new stack for every new item on the floor. This helps us stay relevant to what's being discussed and prevents people with the most relevant points from being buried on stack.
- I reached out to the author of the No Confidence Resolution about making two changes. The first is to only address the Board of Regents to avoid also blaming our student regent, and to also take out the passages referencing student regent-designate Avi Omed because these sections are irrelevant to the message of the resolution.

### **Ongoing Projects**

- I am working on a presentation I will give to the SUA body on possible campaigns the SUA can adopt this year to make ourselves more relevant to our own students and also repair and re-haul our image. I have a couple ideas I'm working on that I will present at that time.
- I am working with fellow rep Sam Shaw on creating a new joint class/ organization at College Nine. The class should satisfy the C2 requirement for writing that will have students analyze current events across the world and train them in writing insightful opinion pieces on them. They will also have the option to concurrently join an organization that works on creating and publishing a print publication containing these articles. The goal is to create a respected and reputable university paper that discusses international and global affairs.
- Senate is going to start hosting a few programs starting this quarter. The first one we are looking into is the Selfie Olympics where people take the most elaborately staged selfie pictures they can imagine and submit them for prizes.
- We are also looking into bringing back the Space Music Concert event from last year and improving on it to generate more turnout.
- I have suggested to the Council of Chairs that we have a cross-senate caucus where all the different senates can come together to hang out and have fun and discuss a few broad topics that affect all of us. This will happen this quarter.
- I am also planning a system where SUA will have short-term internships. For example, if we have a certain event coming up, or a 1-2 quarter long campaign we are adopting, then we will be able to hire more students to help us out with them. This allows for us to hire the help we need for the period of time that we need it and also provides us with an opportunity to bring in a much larger number of

- students who wouldn't normally be involved with SUA instead of just relying on the same small number of permanent interns that we already have.
- I am working on a student government survey for the student body to provide feedback on what they think about/ want from the SUA. This will help us direct ourselves going forward.

### **Criticism**

- The SUA needs to dramatically ramp up its outreach to our student organizations. This is the most efficient way for us to meet the student body and gauge what they need and want. We have a reputation issue and we need to work to mend that starting now.
- We need to work on re-establishing our relevancy to our students and focusing on things we can do to make their UCSC experience better. We don't have to just focus on event programming. There are a lot of things that need fixing around school and we can start out by figuring out what students want the most.