

## **President**

**Candidate: Ray Diaz**

### **Candidate Statement:**

Hello Slugs! My name is Ray Diaz and I am running to be your next SUA President. As a proud son of immigrants, attending a four-year institution like UC Santa Cruz has been the most humbling and rewarding experience I could have ever received. This school year has proven to be not only full of challenges but a revival of student advocacy. My time at UCSC has been enhanced through getting involved and building genuine relationships with fellow students through the College Ten Governing Cooperative, C10 representative, Chief of Staff at the SUA Office of Internal Affairs, Student Housing Coalition, Hermanos Unidos, Cereal Club and so many others. Only together can we solve the issues facing us at UC Santa Cruz.

As we make the transition towards a better future, we must tackle the issues here at home and that starts with:

- Making basic needs more accessible to all, in ensuring housing security
- Elevating student engagement
- Reimagining public safety
- Improving retention rates
- Empowering our student workforce

It's more important than ever that we rebuild a more equitable Santa Cruz that works for all of us. UCSC doesn't just shape reformers, it creates revolutionaries who are ready to create real systemic change.

Together, we can make sure that the voices of all students are not only heard but put into action!

Join the movement, by voting for Ray Diaz for SUA President.

**Candidate: Brent Insua**

### **Candidate Statement:**

Hello Banana Slugs!

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My name is Brent Insua (he/him), I'm a third year, politics major, Kresge affiliate and I'm ecstatic to announce my run for SUA President to the Student Union Assembly. As a Student Union Assembly Kresge Representative for the past 3+ years, I have seen that the SUA is in dire need of comprehensive reformation and that the Assembly suffers from a disconnect to the problems on our campus. As the current SUA Director of Policy and Research under the current SUA President, not only have I learned the inner workings of the SUA but also the failings in transparency, basic needs, legitimacy and representation in the SUA space. To remedy some of these failings during my time as a SUA representative, I've built the Legislation Tracker to keep track of all legislative resolutions that pass through the space available for public reviewing on the SUA website and I also built an internal mechanism inside the SUA so all documents can be archived with our campus archivist for future reference and generations to come!

Previously, I've held or am holding positions as Kresge Parliament Vice Chair, Kresge Parliament Treasurer, Student Fee Advisory Committee Vice Chair, SUA Appointed Representative, SUA Kresge College Elected Representative, SUA College Elections Commissioner, and lastly the SUA Director of Policy and Research for the SUA Office of the President.

The following will be my focuses as SUA President:

1. Reforming SUA institutions to better address student concerns.
2. Prioritizing funding for Basic Needs services offered through the SUA.
3. Addressing the lack of food options on campus (Food Deserts).
4. Establishing Student Government Emergency Preparedness Response in an event of natural disasters.

We as a community, have and will continue to tackle issues that affect us deeply, ranging from the lack of basic needs, secure and affordable housing, and academic resources for us to succeed during our time here at UCSC.

Let's make our institutions work for us— not the other way around, and let's do it together.

- Brent Insua for SUA President.

**Candidate: Alfredo Gama Salmeron**

**Candidate Statement:**

My name is Alfredo Gama Salmeron (Tlatoani Quetzalcoatl Xochipatl) . I am from the Afro Indigneous community of Iguala, Guerrero and raised in Los Angeles. I enjoy creating art, delicious food, and spaces of cultural exchange.

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I am a Legal Studies major with interests in the intersection of education, psychology, and STEM, specifically environmental science, chemistry and biology. I have brought scholars of these fields to bring basic needs and education to underserved communities throughout the country. My previous roles in service have been as an educator with the Children's Defense Fund, an elected official in the City of Los Angeles, and a Trustee for the largest community college district in the nation.

My current service opportunities inspired me to seek your support. I am a tenant rights counselor for students and other tenants facing displacement through Tenant Sanctuary, Santa Cruz. I support indigent members of the community through the Public Defender's office in Santa Cruz. I draft court motions to clear criminal records and provide our community with a second chance. My work has allowed me to gain a broad and in depth understanding of the issues affecting students and community.

I am positioning myself to serve the undergraduate Student Union Assembly to shift all institutional support for the advancement of community health, culture, and the environment. I understand the importance of student collective unity in these uncertain times. Like all of you, I came to the university seeking a broader understanding of the world around me and ways in which I can make the world a better place. I met different people, ethnicities, cultures, groups, and ideas that taught me more than any class ever has. I learned about empathy in action. I was inspired by the ways in which students came together to find housing, food pantries, and clothing exchanges to alleviate the cost of living.

I believe that when we come together, share our stories, share our resources and engage, we can serve ourselves and our communities. Please join me and other students to redirect institutional resources for student, academic, club, group, and organizational mutual aid. Lets focus on our Arts, Heal our Hearts, Love and support one another. Please join me on social media to keep up with our work to bring student mutual aid and support. @un.guache on ig.

### **Vice President, Academic Affairs**

**Candidate: Dora Rasch**

**Candidate Statement:**

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Hello! My name is Dora Rasch. I'm a third year Merrill affiliate, I'm majoring in EEB and politics, and I am currently serving as your SUA Vice President of Academic Affairs. I got my start organizing students on the UCSC subreddit aiding those accused of academic misconduct and advocating against the use of ProctorU on our campus. As VPAA I promised that I would improve the way our university treats academic integrity. I'm proud to say that in my time serving, I have worked with faculty and administration to change our academic integrity policy to be immensely more fair, transparent, and restorative, (giving students actual rights!!) and establish an office that deals with academic integrity cases (as of writing, the formation of the office is in progress).

Along with that, I have been advocating fiercely for students' rights to success and safety during the transition to in person learning. I passed legislation calling for hybrid and remote options for students that needed them, for accessibility to be centered in courses during the pandemic, and for instructors to get the support they needed to have hybrid options for in person classes. Furthermore, I passed legislation asking that the Administration improve their Covid safety and support response as well as involving and informing students on the decision making process. Among other things, I brought the issues of testing accessibility (remember when we only had one testing site up on Merrill?) and unfair add/drop/swap deadlines straight to our Chancellor, resulting in more testing centers and an extension of add/drop/swap deadlines. I am continuing to advocate for expanded academic support during the pandemic, better covid policies, and for students to be included in the decisions our administration makes.

I've done all of this in the past quarter alone with a concussion because I got hit by a car this summer and had to recover!

If you elect me as VPAA, I promise to:

- Expand student involvement in campus policy making
- Organize faculty, student orgs, and students to expand our CRES department and Queer Studies
- Advocate for student involvement and equity in faculty hiring initiatives
- Work to establish a program to support tech equity (funding for students who need tech!), and supply all students with free educational technology (ie iClickers, homework sites, access to course required software across all platforms)
- Represent student needs in discussion about online classes and degrees
- Continue to improve our academic integrity system
- Continue supporting students in need of advice and aid
- Continue to advocate for students success and wellbeing during covid
- Not get hit by a car again
- Work hard to represent student needs and voices to UCSC's Administration and Academic Senate

I have really enjoyed this job, and would really like to continue my work serving students. Thank you for reading!

## **Vice President, Diversity & Inclusion**

**Candidate: Andrew Kato**

### **Candidate Statement:**

Hi, I'm Andrew Kato (he/him), and I'm running for the position of VP of Diversity and Inclusion! As both Hispanic and Japanese, I know first-hand the importance of diversity, but also the discriminatory remarks and exclusion that can come along with it. As a first-year doubling in Linguistics and Legal Studies, I look to incorporate my intersectional experience into my academics by studying the overlaps between language and discrimination.

Outside the classroom, I serve roles in both local and campus-wide student government, as Vice-Chair of the SUA Diversity Commission and as Cowell Senate Treasurer. I direct discussion on how college funds can best be used to improve resource accessibility and campus impact. In the Diversity Commission, I lead communications with the current SUA VPDI, and I assist in strengthening relationships with equity resources like CAPS and CARE. Beyond student government, I serve on the Equity in Mental Health Funding Committee for allocation of \$1.19 million for campus mental health initiatives.

What I advocate for is significant change within and outside the SUA space. As a first-year, I'm not lost in the environment which many people I work with see as toxic and home to an imbalanced power dynamic. This past statement condemning recent racist graffiti is the first serious communication in years the SUA has opened up to any ethnic organization. Being new, I hope to bring fresh blood into the space, without any underlying motivation to preserve existing power structures or to simply please superiors. Meaningful campus change starts with ourselves.

INTERNALLY, my priorities as SUA VPDI are for:

- Minimizing top-down lack of transparency about SUA history and relationships.
- Restructuring power hierarchies to better include diverse voices outside SUA circles.
- Ensuring the space is proactive in being open and engaging with Slugs on and off campus.

EXTERNALLY, my priorities are for:

- Making UCSC and its resources more physically and virtually accessible.
- Uplifting and improving the lives of our diverse working students and transfers.
- Incorporating forms of ethnic studies and racial history into all majors, especially STEM.
- Creating far more disability-accommodating pathways for physically set-back students.

IMMEDIATE action items:

The fact that the two most resourceful libraries on campus close at 9pm on weekdays is a disservice to those who work shifts into the night and need a quiet study space afterwards. I will look to advocate for hours to be opened up to positions and supervising for late nights.

Students hoping to avoid hospital costs and more aren't able to turn to the campus' Student Health Center during the only time most students don't have classes—weekends. I hope to increase pay and open positions for medical staff, to incentivize accessible hours.

The change our most underserved students need cannot just be improvements—they must be fundamental in transforming the accessibility of our student government and our resources to Slugs who are undocumented, transfers, or racially-marginalized. I hope to lead this change and so much more as your Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion.

## **Candidate: Miguel Salcedo**

### **Candidate Statement:**

Hello everyone! My name is Miguel Salcedo (he/him/el) and I will be running for Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion. I am a third year politics major and I will be using my experience with Oakes Senate, the Student Union Assembly, the Experiential Leadership Program, and the Everett Program to fulfill the duties of teamwork and leadership that inherently come with the position. My platforms include the following:

Platforms:

- **RECONNECTING:** After 2 long and isolated pandemic years, the community of UCSC has deteriorated as the online environment has kept us from connecting and bonding. As an Oakes affiliate, it has been made crystal clear that community is key for stable and long-lasting success. Hence, I will strive to reconnect the community of UCSC.
- **UPLIFTING DIVERSITY:** As a Mexican immigrant, I was in search of a college environment where I felt recognized, comfortable, supported, and empowered in identifying as Mexican. Though UCSC has done a decent job at doing so, there is certainly much room for improvement. Hence, I will strive to improve and sustain an environment where diversity is uplifted.
- **PROTECTING DIVERSITY:** As recent tragedies have reminded us, the community of UCSC has long ways to go when it comes to the prevention of hate crimes. Their focus seems to be the handling of hate crimes, not the prevention of them. For this matter, I plan to prioritize the prevention of hate crimes and hence, protect diversity.

Plan of Action: **CELEBRATING DIVERSITY**

I plan to reconnect, uplift, and protect diversity by celebrating diversity! Even before the pandemic, it was obvious that UCSC lacks **INTRACULTURAL** events where people of similar backgrounds and identities can get to know each other and connect. There is also a lack of **INTERCULTURAL** events where cultures and identities are simultaneously recognized and empowered. Therefore, a main aspect of celebrating diversity will be collaborating with organizations across campus to create memorable and impactful intracultural and intercultural events. In one of the most diverse universities, one is bound to interact with a plethora of cultures. In celebrating diversity, those who still carry hatred toward certain groups will be reminded that their very own classmates and friends are also members of a minority. In addition, these events can also serve as a great opportunity for transfer students to be integrated as

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swiftly as possible. In the creation of these events, I plan to reach out to and hopefully collaborate with the big five student organizations:

- Black Student Union (BSU)
- Asian/Pacific Islander Student Alliance (APISA)
- Student Coalition for Gender, Sex, and Sexuality (Prism)
- Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlán (MEChA)
- Student Alliance of North American Indians (SANAI)

Brainstorming for such events is already in motion and ideas will be presented during my campaign. In the creation of these events, I plan to reconnect, uplift, and protect the diverse, disconnected, and deteriorated community of UCSC!

RECONNECTING + UPLIFTING DIVERSITY + PROTECTING DIVERSITY = CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please contact me at [misalced@ucsc.edu](mailto:misalced@ucsc.edu)

### **Vice President, External Affairs**

**Candidate: Mitra Zarinebaf**

**Candidate Statement:**

Hello! My name is Mitra Zarinebaf (she/hers) and I am a Merrill-affiliated third-year Politics and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies major. I would like to run for Vice President of External Affairs to continue to uplift student voices and create vigorous change at the local, state and federal levels.

Since freshman year, I have actively participated in SUA, the External Affairs (EVP) Office, and Merrill Student Government as the SUA Merrill-Elected Representative and Merrill Student Government Chair. In the EVP Office, I was a Legislative Advocate, Lobby Corps Director, and now the Legislative Director which has greatly impacted and expanded my passion to support all students. I have learned how student government operates, how to rally together momentum in student issues and how to increase accessibility between students and representatives. Additionally, my time in the UC Student Association has provided me with the tools and ongoing knowledge to ensure UCSC students are heard. In my time, I have lobbied with representatives, trained and supported students in lobbying, worked and advocated with organizations such as CARE, College Democrats, and the Student Parents Coalition, and held voter registration events and town halls with local and state-elected leaders.

My priorities include what impacts students everyday such as:

- Basic needs: Lobbying to representatives on funding for CalFresh, COVID-19 relief, more inclusive financial aid such as Double The Pell and CalGrant Modernization, and housing insecurity at the campus and local level.
- Campus resources: supporting Underground Scholars, undocumented students, student parents, and transfer students through lobbying for increased funding.

While I have experience as a student who juggled working, caring for family, and navigating basic needs during the pandemic, I do not have the lived experiences of so many other students. As Vice President, I will uplift these stories in lobbying and creating our goals for the year. Whether it be in advocating for budget changes for the UC or establishing continued relationships with different organizations, I am determined to have the EVP Office as interconnected as possible with students.

Thank you so much for your consideration and if you have any questions please email me at [mzarineb@ucsc.edu](mailto:mzarineb@ucsc.edu)!

## **Vice President, Internal Affairs**

**Candidate: Jimmy Gomez**

### **Candidate Statement:**

Hello y'all!

My name is Jimmy Gomez (he/him/el), and I am a John R. Lewis College-affiliated student running for Vice President of Internal Affairs. As the current Vice President of Student Life and Advocate, I've led a team to successfully distribute a \$50,000 state grant for emergency housing rent relief assistance for undergraduates, offered enhanced referrals on mental health, academics, conduct/grievances, and financial aid to campus resources (Slug Support, Slug Tech, CAPS, etc.), and alleviated student crises with holistic case management methodologies.



My engagements in public health equity and programming sectors are to assist our campus body in fulfilling their student-centered initiatives that have resulted in vital social advocacy, which includes serving on the Athletics and Recreation Reserve Fund Advisory Committee, the Student Health Advisory Committee, holding Dining Hall Services accountable for health-risked safety liabilities and hosting Wellness Day events. Lastly, I advocated for Colleges, Housing, and Educational Services (CHES) to distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) masks to student leaders, in housing offices, and across studying facilities. Furthermore, I'm actively expanding resources in the Student Advocate's Office and SUA Food Pantry, and finalized a permanent free placement contract with OPERs.

Communal priorities remain to uplift and promote students' welfare as we transition back to full in-person instruction:

❖ Increase academic retention rates

➤ Improve college affiliated advising relationships with lead academic preceptors, launch a pilot residential peer advisor program, and met student demands with the Office of Campus Advising Coordination to find lasting solutions to systemic/institutionalized academic barriers

➤ Support the annual funding and official allocation of the Hispanic Serving Institution status to UC Santa Cruz

❖ Mental Health Representation:

➤ Expand on National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) resources to campus, and retain an emphasis on inclusive behavioral health with pre-existing departments/organizations

➤ Demand the hiring of additional full-time Queer & Trans-friendly, and ABC identified psychologists at CAPS

➤ Aim to ease the impacts of mental health on students' academic performances

❖ Technology Accessibility:

➤ Continue to pressure Information Technology Services to send out quarterly ResWiFi surveys and replace immediate nonfunctional power-grids/modems for appropriate internet service

➤ Advocate for the reinstatement of the Slug Tech program with Financial Aid and Scholarship Office and Dean of Students' Slug Support

❖ Basic Needs and Housing Insecurities:

➤ Partner with on-campus Basic Needs agencies to ensure a surplus of state funding for pantries

➤ Share vital information on free Off-Campus Legal Consultation Services through McManis Law to support tenant legal rights

❖ Students Committee on Committees:

➤ Increment positive campus outcomes with student representatives in administrative spaces and conversations (e.g, CEP Educational Policy, Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity) through corresponding opportunities

➤ Outreach positions to interdisciplinary campus organizations, senate governments, and divisions for administrative accountability

❖ Elevate outstanding partnership with Orientations Office:

➤ Create student orientation panels and introductory college life residential programs for admitted students

Thank you for your consideration! I'm optimistic about representing and segmenting the respect our amazing UCSC community deserves. Feel free to contact me at [jjgomez@ucsc.edu](mailto:jjgomez@ucsc.edu), and wishing my fellow slugs the best!

## **Vice President, Student Life**

**Candidate: Amalia Bostian**

### **Candidate Statement:**

Hello, Slugs!

My name is Amalia Bostian, and I'm excited for the opportunity to be your next Vice President of Student Life. I want to bring my wealth of experience and empathy to the needs of UCSC students.

At this university, I am the Chief of Staff at the Office of Student Life's Student Advocate's Office, where I lead and assist in providing remedies for high-impact issues and constantly work on ways to improve our office's support of students. I have worked in SAO since my freshman year, formerly serving as a Conduct and Academics caseworker. Throughout my time at UCSC, I have strived to ensure that every student I assisted left those meetings feeling empowered and heard. I have also worked with various campus offices such as the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the Conduct Office, CAPS, and CARE to advocate on behalf of the student body. I'm also a student representative on the Academic Senate Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity, where I bring the student perspective to both systemwide and UCSC proposed policy.

Here's what I want to do for you:

- Increase awareness of resources available on campus, along with resources themselves. This includes food pantries, sexual health clinics, academic resources, basic needs initiatives, and more. I will spotlight them through events and awareness campaigns. Specific examples include more funding and concentration towards the housing crisis (which my work in the Office of Student Life has made me intimately aware of), and working with like National Alliance for Mental Illness along with CAPS to ensure adequate mental health support for students.

- Improve accessibility to campus resources. I will work with the DRC, CAPS, campus organizations, academic advisors, and residential college staff to make sure student needs are being met across the board. I know how frustrating it is to navigate the campus bureaucracy from serving students attempting to do so, and I believe that every student deserves easy and understandable communication with the university about their needs.

- Center student voices as we move forward in the pandemic. As a student myself, I understand the complex situations that have arisen out of remote and hybrid learning environments, not to mention the personal circumstances that can make them worse. As the university navigates this

time, I will make sure students are being heard by me, the SUA, and the university administration.

- Hear from you! If elected, I would keep an open dialogue with all of you through social media, email, events, and by talking to you directly. You come first, and it is your needs that dictate the actions I will take. I know what it takes to serve as both an intermediary and advocate on behalf of the student body towards the administration. With your support, I can work with you and for you to make the university experience better for all students.

**Candidate: Mackenzi Rauls**

**Candidate Statement:**

Hello! My name is Mackenzi Rauls (she/her) and I'm a second year cognitive science major. At times I've found it challenging to integrate academics into life, and maybe you have too. I've personally benefited from many of the available student services, and have witnessed their potential to improve students' lives firsthand. In my time as a Student Union Assembly (SUA) representative for Kresge Parliament, I've become acquainted with the inner workings of student government. I've also developed a passion for representing and advocating for students in my community.

I believe this intersection of experience uniquely qualifies me to meaningfully improve the quality of student services offered, as well as create a more equitable environment for all students. My platform's priorities will include:

**Supporting Basic Needs**

- Continue to develop and increase accessibility of programs like the Student Advocate's Office, Slug Support, and on-campus food pantries
- Increase the ease-of-use for existing student services that are challenging to navigate
- Improve accessibility of basic needs for off-campus students

**Mental Health Advocacy and Education**

- Collaborate with National Alliance for Mental Illness and Counseling And Psychological Services, as well as advocacy groups like Active Minds and Bring Change to Mind for mental health education
- Provide faculty and SUA members with mental health education on how to create a more inclusive environment (inclusive language, importance of well being, decreasing stigma)
- Implement hiring practices for support faculty that better reflect student minorities

**Bridging the Gap Between SUA and the Student Body**

- Work with local government and campus organizations to make collaboration with SUA more approachable
- Improve SUA agility and responsiveness to individual concerns

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I believe that with this model I can work to combat issues present in our community, as well as advocate for student voices and create unity across the student body.

Thank you and go slugs!

Feel free to reach out with any questions at [mraults@ucsc.edu](mailto:mraults@ucsc.edu)!