

President

Candidate: Airielle Silva

Candidate Statement:

First, no one on this campus should feel violently bombarded. No one should feel unsafe. No one should feel alienated.

A vote for me is a vote to remove the experience on this campus that is aligned with the University's extraction of students' cultural, spiritual, and physical labor without permission. You deserve someone who doesn't abuse the relationships or ideas of those with less social or hierarchical positional power for one's personal-professional benefit without crediting the pre-existing communities and student organizations that built the student-agency model for transformative change. You deserve someone who will prevent attackers that mount assaults from any place on this campus. I acknowledge healing for all people as an essential component of racial equity and social justice work. That is who I am.

I am Airielle Silva, a second-year Critical Race and Ethnic Studies major and Black Studies minor. I am honored to currently serve as the Black Student Union Vice President, SANAI (Student Alliance of Native American & Indigenous Peoples) Events Coordinator, Black Lives Matter Garden Steward, CoCo (Co-Curricular) Student Programs Coordinator, and CADRC's (Cultural Arts and Diversity) Rainbow Theater Outreach Coordinator.

I want to ask you all, have the administration and the current SUA leadership been accountable for their roles and responsibilities to ensure a high-quality experience for all students in the pursuit of higher education?

My answer to the question is no. It's not healthy, sustainable, or normal that we're trying to survive. In every role, I have been met with combative and white supremacist systemic decision-making. I am unsatisfied with the status quo. I am dedicated to fighting for the collective liberation of the minoritized, underrepresented undergraduate student body at-large, providing avenues to heal and live vibrantly. I am pleased to announce my candidacy for the SUA Presidency for the 2023-2024 academic school year.

I am Black. I am Latina. I am queer. I was raised by a matriarch of women who forged my ability to recognize my community's needs and to find solutions for the futurity of our excellence. My experiences in grassroots organizing inform how I work, organize, and cultivate the BSU, BLM Garden, and College 9/John R. Lewis events this year. An experience that has shaped my advocacy was speaking at the John R. Lewis dedication ceremony, where I was on stage confronting Chancellor Cynthia Larive and UC President Michael V. Drake about UCSC's and

the overall UC system's performative image with its lack of institutional support for its BI-POC and marginalized students. That speech was more than a petition against the administration for their ignorance of systemic issues as it was also a call to fight for the liberation and the futurity of all minoritized people who attend UCSC and beyond. In being able to call out the hypocrisy of the university, I will take what I have learned from my time here at UCSC to advocate for the undergraduate student body as SUA president as I ground myself in the practices of my ancestors.

[Endorsement List](#)

Candidate: Alfredo Gama Salmeron

Candidate Statement:

I am asking for your support to Re-elect Fredo as your Student Body President and continue our movement to abolish the UC Administration that leaves students without food and housing. They use performative activism and identity politricks to distract while they get richer and people continue to struggle. White, Black, Brown, or Red: They don't care. They are driven by greed, they care about green.

A Tradition of Resilience

I was born in the Afro-Indigenous community of Iguala, Guerrero, a place of land protectors rooted in love for the people. My standing up against repression starts when I was 7 years old as an indigenous unaccompanied minor "illegally" crossing the militarized border. I serve Freedom Schools across the country to bring food and education to underserved children as an educator with the Children's Defense Fund. I stood with my siblings of the Sioux Tribe in Standing Rock to protect the land from oil pipelines: and We Won. I stood with the founding chapter of the Black Lives Matter movement to ignite the redirection of budgets from abuse into care: and We Won. My guidance comes from mothers who have lost their children to the police state, to create a brighter world for all of our youth: and WE WILL WIN.

Standing United Against Divide and Conquer

The UC administration uses few students as tokens and uses them as the face of "diversity". They handpick token "leaders", bribe them with paychecks and resume lines to look the other way while the UC administration gets away with millions of theft. They created fake outrage and fraudulent recall to distract you from the abuse and stealing of your funds.

This election we can tell administrators: Your tokens don't represent us. UCSC students stand united against greed.

Students over profits: Abolishing the UC Administration

In 2021, the Chancellor was forced to apologize after she ordered UCPD to brutalize students demanding living wages. Instead of being fired, she was given a half million dollar raise and a

second \$9 million mansion. We must demand the end of administration and create a committee made up of UC janitors, students, TA's and faculty to operate our beautiful university. In my first act as President of the Student Body, I redirected funds from administration positions into student services. Abolishing the UC Administration will free up over \$800 million dollars to invest in YOUR student endeavors in the Arts, Athletics, Community Service, STEM and other learning opportunities.

We Win No Matter What

Last election you gave our movement an opportunity to lead the Student Body in affirming working class and middle class students who struggle to afford an education. Despite the administration's efforts to derail our advocacy, you have stood by our movement to bring students basic needs in housing, food, and student services. No matter the outcome of the election, we win by coming together and standing for what is right: No More Chancellors. Students Over Profits. Follow our movement: **@UCSC.FREDO**

Candidate: Daniel Halpern-DeVries

Candidate Statement:

My name is Daniel Halpern-DeVries and I am excited to be running as a candidate for Student Union Assembly President. I believe that I have the background and understanding necessary to be effective in this position. In the over three years I have been an SUA voting representative, I have had a number of experiences and contributed to advocacy efforts that I believe demonstrate my qualifications for the position. A selection of some of the efforts I have been involved in are:

- Revamped the Student Committee on Committees to increase the amount of students we appoint to academic senate and administrative committees to advocate for student needs.
- Lobbied, along with representatives of Merrill college and other student advocates, to have the campus open Merrill Market to provide a better way to spend slug points to those on the east side of campus.
- Acted as a representative of Jewish students in demanding the University Administration support Black and Jewish students in response to an instance of antiblack and antisemitic graffiti.

I am running for SUA President so that I can address some of the long standing issues I have seen that I did not have the power to fix as just a voting member. An example of two large goals I have (out of many) are:

- Advocate for students with disabilities.

- As a DRC affiliated student, I know how frustrating it can be when the DRC is understaffed and it can take weeks to even get a response. One of my main priorities is to use the position of SUA President to CONSTANTLY lobby the administration to allocate more resources to the DRC and to students with disabilities in general.

- Another problem that can occur is professors dismissing, being difficult about, or not fully complying with students' DRC accommodations. I want to use the position of SUA President to implement programs to hold faculty accountable for their treatment of students with DRC accommodations, and a way to have students easily report the issues to get resolved in a timely manner.

- Funding for Student Organizations

- I plan to create an intern position under the SUA Office of the President dedicated solely to outreach and coordination between the SUA and student organizations, as well as being a resource who can assist student organizations with navigating and the work of applying to all the different funding sources on campus.

- I plan to go to the administration to secure auxiliary sources of funding outside of student fees that can then be given to the student organizations.

Finally and most importantly, the SUA has had a chronic problem with transparency with the student body. My number one goal as SUA President would be to increase communication and transparency between the SUA and the student body as a whole so that the SUA can be as representative as possible.

Thank you for your time.

Candidate: Mailynn Flores

Candidate Statement:

Hello Banana Slugs,

My name is Mailynn Flores and I'm running to be the next Student Union Assembly President! As a first-generation Asian Pacific and Latina college student, I have experienced systemic barriers. To further my passion in advocating for students' needs, I'm triple majoring in Legal Studies, Feminist Studies, and Education, and acquired extensive institutional knowledge about inequalities in higher education, policies, and persisting impacts on historically marginalized groups at UC Santa Cruz.

I'm a current Legislative Advocate focusing on federal and UC policy under the Office of External Affairs, and research legislative priorities. Furthermore, lobbying for an increase in state basic needs, and disability justice. I've successfully resolved internal campus affairs and

implemented yearly action plans as the Director of Local Affairs and Policy with the current SUA President. As a Neighborhood Assistant at Oakes College, I've advanced event programming and endorsed initiatives to increase diverse communities' retention. Active participation has taught me how to create visibility campaigns, how an efficacious student government functions, and how to engage in service learning.

Within these roles, I established relations with Santa Cruz government officials, community organizers, and policymakers to advocate for concerns about ***affordable housing, CalFresh eligibility, transportation, basic needs insecurity, and safeguarding student financial aid.***

MY ELECTORAL INITIATIVES:

Campus Safety and Solidarity: Inform students about confidential preventive university resources and restructure assault accountability in reporting procedures. I want to continue coordinating large events and efficiently plan programs to implement the mission of aspiring the highest type of womanhood. Such avenues have been possible as Public Relations Vice President of Gamma Phi Beta. Prior philanthropic opportunities led me to advocate for change especially for marginalized groups of color, Femme-identifying persons, non-binary folks, and Queer and Trans-communities, and will proceed to do so.

Health and Wellbeing: Request UC Office of President, and state legislatures to support menstrual equity. The past year, I've been able to continue my interests in reproductive health freedom in advocacy work through Planned Parenthood Generation Action. If elected, students are encouraged to share opinions on UC SHIP insurance expansion benefits, new installation of recreational equipment at OPERs; with an emphasis on mental health accessibility, I want to increase utilization of the Crisis Mobile Behavioral Health Team, instead of police presence during emergencies. Additionally, ask state legislators \$18.9 million in permanent, ongoing funding to elevate UC Disability Service Providers equitably to have more professional staff members, to ensure effective and adequate responses for DRC affiliates.

Student Engagement: Collaborate with the Career Center to boost professional development and have Divisions host internship fairs. Partner with multi-ethnic organizations, and resource centers, to create educational workshops to respect identities and raise awareness of student belonging. Also, promote outreach involvement with the SUA, and organizations to have media highlight shared community values.

SUA needs to be a tool for student empowerment and by coming together with unique lived experiences, our voices will invoke the change needed for unification. I hope to receive your vote and enthusiastically uplift our vibrant student body!

Candidate: Miguel Salcedo Maciel

Candidate Statement:

My name is Miguel Salcedo (he/him/el), I'm a proud Mexican immigrant from La Barca, Jalisco, and I'm running to be the **SUA President**. I'm a fourth year politics and philosophy double major and I'll be using my experience with Oakes Senate, the SUA, the Experiential Leadership Program, and the Everett Program to fulfill the duties of teamwork, leadership, and conflict resolution that inherently come with the position.

As the current SUA Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, I have nurtured a discerning lens in analyzing what the students need from a President in order to strategically, adequately, and equitably improve all student experiences.

I have concluded that **the undergraduate student body deserves a President who:**

Is passionate for change and has the INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE to make change happen

Being passionate about change and willing to learn can be extremely impactful when paired with the institutional knowledge of the UC Santa Cruz bureaucracy that I've gained in working with the SUA Executive Officers, staff, and administration. I hope to work with the campus community to continue to learn how to better navigate the institution to materialize change.

Knows how the SUA runs

As an Executive Officer, I have gained crucial insight needed to improve how the SUA functions in order to better serve the student body. I have garnered knowledge on the SUA's governing documents, the roles and responsibilities of many SUA positions, the history of the SUA, and how decisions impact the SUA and the student body.

Knows how to SUCCESSFULLY run an office in the SUA

The President should know all of the aspects of running an office and guiding a team into creating effective projects that are reflective of what the student body needs. The work that continues to be achieved by the SUA Office of Diversity and Inclusion proves how capable and equipped I am—not only to fulfill the aforementioned in the Office of the President—but to guide the rest of the elected Executive Officers into a full-functioning student government characterized by growth and community.

Is ALREADY CREATING CHANGE

My endeavor to strengthen student, staff, and administrative relationships in order to work towards having student input in decisions that directly impact Latines on campus is ONE example.

I partnered with the HSI Initiatives Director on student-centered initiatives.

I also lead the endeavor to include Latines not involved in the SUA in the first student-organized trip to the HACU Capitol Forum at Washington D.C. to learn about funding, internship, and job opportunities that all Latines at UCSC can and will benefit from. In addition, we entered the

offices of congressmen to advocate for an increase in funding for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs). Shoutout to all of the people who supported this endeavor.

I will be discussing the projects and collaborations that I hope to have for the incoming year on my social media platform once campaign season begins.

If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, please contact me at misalced@ucsc.edu.

Vice President of Internal Affairs

Candidate: Aadity Sharma

Candidacy Statement:

Hello everyone, my name is Aadity Sharma, and I am hoping to be your Internal Vice President for this upcoming school year. I believe in compassion, transparency, and most importantly, engagement as a leader.

The first tenet of being a leader is respect. As your internal vice president, I will hold people accountable and oppose anything that will hurt our students. I am not afraid to speak up against anything I think is wrong. I do not hold double standards, so anyone, including myself, is responsible for what happens in the SUA. There is nothing short of mistakes, but I will ensure that every one of them will be a strong learning experience. Currently, as an incoming member of COLASC (Committee on the Library and Scholarly Communication), I intend on expanding library hours, making travel to libraries safer, and increasing educational opportunities in the library to not just include materials such as electronics, but education on how to effectively use them. I hope to turn this into a certification program that students can apply on their resumes to prove that they are skilled.

The second pillar of my leadership style is compassion. I am one person representing many different people who are all fighting their own battles. Every decision I will help implement will affect many different people and can hurt or help them. My position is to be flexible and empathetic towards all different people, and make policies as diverse and wide as possible to account for everyone. As a current member of the UCSC Academic Senate, I hope to introduce legislation in the future that can allow students to not have to pay the late registration fees for classes, in order to account for system errors and reduce the monetary stress students take on.

The third principle is engagement. Currently, outside of leadership or target groups, students do not know much about the government that represents them and their interests. The SUA offers many resources such as housing help, and even offers jobs that can give students pay and real-world experience. I hope to expand diversity and social programs concerning the SUA in order to foster a new sense of community through events that have resources and can allow networking amongst different people. One thing I have noticed is that student leaders have

an almost mythical presence on campus. I hope to create town halls that could transition into hands-on events for students and student leaders to interact and brainstorm ideas, and that people approach leaders as people and peers, not as higher-ups with extra power.

Thank you for reading my statement. I am easy to approach and happy to answer any more questions.

Candidate: Audrey Avelino

Candidate Statement:

Hi everyone, my name is Audrey Avelino. I'm a first year college student and a first generation Mexican American college student. I'm running for Vice President of Internal Affairs in hopes to see real change implemented within the SUA. I'm an active member of the Police Accountability Board here at UCSC and a member of Chicanx and Latinx Educandose (ChALE), Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx & Latinx de Aztlan (MEChA), and MESA Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP). Through these organizations I've been given the opportunity to use my determination, agency, and leadership skills within these positions to stand up and enact change for various student communities. This campus and the student body here is my community and I intend to bring the same support and leadership in being your advocate and actively voicing your needs and concerns within the SUA space.

As VPIA, I look to provide transparency between the SUA and the campus community. Following the events from the Fall Quarter, trust is my main priority in ensuring I can do my best in serving you all and representing you in a way that reflects the student body as a whole. Given SUA's recent history, I look to create a system of accountability for all involved in the SUA so that there is a sense of unity and trust with the campus as a whole. Aside from day to day duties as VPIA, I look to help reform SUA into something accessible to all students and become a safe place where students' concerns are valid and heard.

Like you all, I'm just a student that wants to ensure that every community member is heard and welcomed. I plan on being the leading resource for the student body with issues such as housing, student retention, mental health resources, and food insecurity. I recognize the lack of open dialogue between administrative leaders and the students directly. I plan to implement change by bridging the gap between the student body and administration by giving students a place and seat at the table in reforming the way SUA communicates with administration by having consistent sit down meetings while keeping that information open to the public and updating the students about the progression of wanted change.

Although I may not have previous experience being in the SUA, my humility and the willingness to learn will help me rebuild trust between the SUA and the community for a more inclusive, transparent, and equitable campus. The experience I do have is as a fellow student who wishes to see change and will use the power and resources available to see those changes made.

Voting for me is a voting for representation of current students who advocate for others to create our campus as being a place of opportunities to succeed not only as students but as human beings.

[Endorsement List](#)

Candidate: Favian Miramontes Villalpando

Candidate Statement:

Dear fellow undergraduates,

My name is Favian Miramontes Villalpando and I am currently a first-year college student here at UCSC who is double majoring in business management and politics, and I am excited to announce that I am running for Vice President of Internal Affairs.

I know this last year of school has been hard on all of us and I understand that you the students are frustrated with our school. Every day students face problems all around campus and often these problems go unheard. I know this because I have seen and experienced many of these problems first hand and just like many of you I'm tired of it. This is why I chose to run for Vice President of Internal Affairs.

I believe that I can use this position to be a voice for the people. And using the weekly office hours I will be able to hold I plan to hear your problems which I can then use my platform to address. I also hope to make the SUA and the work they do something the student body can see in action. I know a lot of frustration students have comes from the fact that they believe nothing is being done behind the scenes to address their problems, but I know although it doesn't always feel like this that this isn't the case so as Vice President of Internal Affairs I hope to ensure students get to feel the positive effect of all the work the SUA does.

If elected to this position I give you my word that your voice will be heard and your problems addressed. This is because I believe that students deserve a leader who will make them feel like they're in the room where it happens and I believe that I am that leader. I have experience in leading and guiding student bodies, specifically I have been working with first year college students to hear their problems and help create a mentorship program with my current company. I believe that these skills will translate well to the VPIA position. So I give you my word if you vote for me you're voting for someone who will make your voices heard, someone who will work tirelessly until your problems are solved, and someone who will hold themselves accountable for making sure they are always giving their best because every student here deserves to be in an environment where they are safe, happy, heard, and taken care of.

Vice President of External Affairs**Candidate: Alisa Johnson-Vela****Candidate Statement:**

Hi all! My name is Alisa Maria Johnson-Vela (she/her/ella), and I am an Environmental Studies and Legal Studies major. I will be running for the position of External Affairs Vice President. For the past two years, I have worked in the EVP office in various positions: as a Legislative Advocate, Lobby Corps Director, and Organizing Director. In these positions, I have learned the intricacies of the EVP office's work and appreciate its unique standing in the SUA space. In my time in the office, I have advocated for dining hall meal plan reform, been involved in disability justice works, financial aid reform, hate crime reporting reform advocacy and other issues that directly affect students. I have also collaborated with various organizations and groups on campus (disability justice groups, CARE, transportation groups, the Bike Co-Op, etc.) to help expand our knowledge and impact on both governments and administration. I have also lobbied all of these issues (and more!) to our local, state, and federal representatives to ensure that student voices, specifically UC Santa Cruz voices, were included in the conversation about policy creation. I want to run for EVP to continue to be a part of the fight to better implement policies that affect students on every level. My priorities for advocacy will always be for issues that affect students.

These advocacy priorities include:

- Basic Needs Access to...
- Housing
- Transportation
- Food
- Hygiene Products
- Clothes
- Financial Aid Reform
- Disability Justice
- Menstrual Equity
- Support for student workers
- Increased funding and access to campus resources that help supply students with basic needs.
- Creating a more inclusive campus through education and policies.

My goals as EVP will always be communal; I will always look to students most impacted by issues to form the plans and language surrounding an issue. However, I promise to carry the following frameworks throughout my work as EVP. We do not exist in a vacuum. We are not "just" students or "just" any other part of our identity. The issues we face will impact our lives as students. Because of that, we must advocate for our needs as students holistically and with empathy. We are all responsible to each other. Attending UC Santa Cruz and being a part of this college community means we have a responsibility to each other. We are accountable for

listening to each other, showing up for each other, advocating for each other, and helping create the best version of this campus for our community. As Vice President of External Affairs, I want to join our Santa Cruz community to create change internally and at the local, state, and federal levels, whenever and wherever possible. I appreciate your consideration of my candidacy, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions at ajohns40@ucsc.edu.

[Endorsement List](#)

Candidate: Andres Martinez-Sabino

Candidate Statement:

Hello Everyone! My name is Andres Martinez-Sabino and I'm running to be your next External Affairs Vice President! I'm a first-generation Latino student double-majoring in Legal Studies and Environmental Studies. I believe that my experiences being involved in the SUA have allowed me to build the skills and gain the knowledge that is necessary to efficiently and successfully advocate for student needs.

Currently, as the Local Legislative Advocate in the External Affairs Office, I've taken initiative on student projects focused on improving student life, advocated for an increase in accessibility of on-campus public transportation to UCSC Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS), and facilitated open forum meetings for students to raise awareness about issues on campus they wish to be addressed. Additionally, I've had the leadership opportunity to be involved off-campus working with Santa Cruz officials and community organizers to discuss and create change regarding issues like housing insecurity and transportation alongside peers. This has led me to organize meetings with assembly members and staff to discuss budget priorities and bill requests that'll benefit the lives of all current and future UC students. I've co-led a group of 10 UCSC students for the lobbying event by delegating roles, providing advice, and a plan for the event in the State Capital alongside the University of California Student Association (UCSA).

From my experience this year, I've witnessed barriers that negatively impact UCSC students' education and overall experience. As the Director of Environmental Justice and Sustainability in the office of the SUA President, I'm advocating for environmental justice and sustainability on campus that'll directly benefit the student body. Currently, I'm working to address the lead in the water pipes by meeting with the administration and taking the initiative to hold them accountable, while simultaneously creating a safer campus.

I have a strong understanding of the current roles and responsibilities of the EVP through my involvement in the External Affairs Office. I'll actively take the initiative to address campus-wide issues through external outreach and rebuild the foundation to create sustainable relationships with government officials and external entities that will continue beyond my candidacy. My priority is to ensure the improvement and solidification of resources to students' basic needs like

CalFresh, accessibility of public transportation, disability resources, mental/physical health, and consistent financial aid.

I'm confident in my advocacy for the entire UCSC student body the same way I advocate for my community. As External Affairs Vice president, I will ensure that the office WILL uplift and provide the space for all students by ensuring every single voice is heard which will remove problematic barriers affecting all students. A vote for me is a vote for the integration of perspectives, presence, and contributions that encompass the entire student body in decision-making and policy; I am a vessel for advocacy, diversity, and equal opportunity. I am the platform for students' voices to be heard by the administration. Thank you for your support!

[Endorsement List](#)

Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion

Candidate: Leslie Marquez

Candidate Statement:

Hello Everyone! :)

My name is Leslie Marquez and I am running for Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion. I believe that there is a lack of representation of students of color, Womxn, LGBTQ+, transfer and re-entry students, people with disabilities, undocumented, first generation and low-income, voices and identities being represented in our student body's decisions. As a woman of color who identifies as first generation coming from a BIPOC low-income community, I have seen and experienced first hand how this campus has not uplifted, supported, and guided myself along with many other communities. As students on this campus who hold various identities and backgrounds, it is crucial that we have a student government that not only reflects but also supports the diverse experiences of our students who reside in this institution that profits off our enrollment. I believe that our student experience should be one that is safe, healthy, community-oriented, just, and equitable for us to succeed on this campus and beyond.

My involvement in the past 3 years in Engaging Education (e2) as Office Manager and Program Coordinator; a resource and retention center for BIPOC and underrepresented communities, TWANAS Communities of Color Press Editor in Chief; a student of color publication and organization, and Ourstorian for Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx/Latinx de Aztlan (MEChA) has provided me the experience and knowledge to help various student communities and create spaces that are welcoming, safe, and empowering of our beautiful identities. I believe that student spaces and resource centers on this campus are a huge part of our experience at UCSC. We are what makes this campus what it is. It's time we prioritize these spaces and

marginalized communities. It's time to put their voices at the forefront of the decisions being made about student's education, livelihood, and well-being.

The lack of transparency and misguided direction that SUA has previously embodied has greatly hindered its potential to positively impact the campus community and be an advocate for students' needs. As a student leader, I have learned the power of transparency, healing within our community, and allowing space for our communities to exist as they are. I plan to apply these previous experiences to VPDI leadership and reform campus spaces through collective action within the SUA space and pursue community building between all student organizations, resources centers, and students as a whole. As your VPDI, I intend to advocate for these changes to be made at this campus by redistributing resources, holding administration accountable for funding to be allocated for student's needs, and creating an intersection of community empowerment across this campus. I ensure to advocate for these communities who have been silenced and neglected by this institution. It's been too long that our voices have not been heard by this university and I am ready to take on this position to make a DIFFERENCE for all. A vote for me is a vote for the opportunity for diversity to finally be represented and our perspectives to be enacted into real change.

[Endorsement List](#)

Vice President of Academic Affairs

Candidate: Jamie Nelson Hindery

Candidate Statement:

Hey Folks,

My name is Jamie Hindery, my pronouns are they, them, theirs, and next year I will be a fourth-year transfer student. If all goes according to plan I will graduate Spring 2025 with majors in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies & Education, Democracy, and Justice and a minor in Spanish Studies.

My fields of study directly relate to the work I would be doing as VPAA. My CRES studies highlight the importance of honoring differences within our student body and the colonial-imperialist legacies that still dictate much of our educational policy. My EDJ studies and my work as an educator on 4 continents both further inform my understanding of educational history and educational policy. Finally, as a 27-year-old transfer student with multiple jobs, I am acutely aware of the difficulties that come with being a non-traditional student and make sure to advocate for non-traditional students any chance I get.

I am very grateful to have gotten a lot of experience this year that will directly support me in advocating for students as your VPAA. This year, I've had the honor of serving you as the

Student Representative on the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) alongside our current VPAA, Dora Rasch, and as Co-Chair of the Student Academic Senate (SAS). Working with Dora has been a blessing (they're a dope person) and a major opportunity to learn how best to support students in the role of VPAA. I am honored to say that I have Dora's support and endorsement to be our next VPAA and I won't hesitate to reach out when I have questions about my role.

Finally, in 2020 I served as a campaign manager for a local City Council candidate, as treasurer for a school board candidate's campaign, and as a policy advisor focused on housing and education for a State Assemblyperson. These experiences working within local politics helped teach me how to best lead a team working towards a common goal. While my candidate's lost their City Council and School Board races, the opportunity to run an 8 month campaign taught me a lot about managing people and resources, both of which will translate to me being a more efficient and effective VPAA.

These experiences will be invaluable if you choose me to serve as your VPAA next year. The VPAA works closely with the Faculty Senate, has an ex-officio seat on CEP, and is responsible for supporting the work of the SAS. I have a strong relationship with Faculty Senate leadership, a working relationship with top administrators, and a deep respect for the thoughts and opinions of all students. If you choose me to serve as your VPAA next year, you can be sure that the SAS and CEP will fight for academic policies that are in the best interests of our Undergraduate Students.

Sincerely,

Jamie

Candidate: Stephanie Sanchez Toscano

Candidate Statement:

Hi, I'm Stephanie Sanchez Toscano, a first-generation, Mexican-American, queer woman running for SUA Vice President of Academic Affairs. Since starting here at UCSC, I have been a part of MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx & Latinx de Aztlan) and ChALE (Chicanx & Latinx Educandose), where I got to be a part of the Hispanic and Latine communities here on campus. Being a part of the ChALE and MEChA communities has shown me different ways in which students of color are negatively impacted by the education system. Seeing these inequalities has inspired me to want to build a better community with other students who face these adverse effects within UCSC's education system. I am personally aware of the sense of separation and lack of knowledge about the education system that BIPOC, LGBTQ+, first-gen, and students with disabilities face, by not having equal resources available. This separation further drives me to want to make a change.

I know people usually have a negative connotation with the word SUA due to previous quarters and its history, but this is something I want to improve upon. By running for SUA VPAA, I plan to fix this division between the SUA and the student body. Working closely with you all, regardless of background, I plan to ensure that you receive the best education you possibly can. I also hope to be the glue to unite the clear separation between students and administration, faculty, and staff, which is putting up barriers and not allowing us students to receive the education we pay for and deserve. I intend to do this by rebuilding the trust between the students and the student body, for solidarity, because we are all in this together.

As a student, our needs and education take precedence, and I promise to work closely with you all to enhance your education and academic experience. As students, we deserve justice-oriented education, more scholarships, workshops, and transitional programs that are accessible and equitable; it is my highest priority to provide that for you. As your Academic Affairs Vice President, I will advocate for you, and if I don't meet your expectations, I hope you will all hold me accountable, as I strive for transparency and respect. As a first year, I may not have the same amount of experience as the other candidates. However, in the short amount of time that I have been here, I have experienced the hardships of being a student not supported by the administration, faculty, and staff which therefore qualifies me for this position to provide a much-needed change in our community. I have the passion and dedication to make this school better, and a community of mentors, friends, and even you, who will help me best advocate against these issues. A vote for me is a vote for integrity, truth, and justice; I am an embodiment of these virtues and will show up in my fullest self to exercise these sentiments to their fullest.

[Endorsement List](#)

Vice President of Student Life

Candidate: Alicia Anyanwu

Candidate Statement:

Hello everyone! My name is Alicia Anyanwu (she/her), I'm a first-generation Nigerian-American student and a second-year Legal Studies major and Anthropology minor. I am running for Vice President of Student Life because I believe and know I'll be able to provide SUA with the representation the student body needs. As the African Black Caribbean (ABC) Representative of the Black Student Union, I've committed myself to being a student leader and serving my community by assisting and spearheading events that inform, serve, and provide care for the ABC community on campus. I've assisted in organizing community events, provided resources to ABC students, and cultivated fulfilling relationships. My leadership reflects my academic interests in cultural relativism in anthropology; the ability to understand a culture on its own terms and not to make judgments using the standards of one's personal culture. In order to establish equity and be an accountable leader, advocacy requires the capacity to recognize the paradoxes between tension and ease that arise in discourse about cultural values.

I am fully aware of the lack of transparency, accountability, and community care efforts received from the SUA in the past year. The SUA is meant to be a representation of the community at large; people in positions of leadership are not meant to be the authority, they are meant to be the voices representing different communities by collectively working towards change. As Vice President of Student Life, I'm committed to serving students first and foremost, especially those underrepresented by the university. I envision an SUA where resources are not kept from students but brought to light and used for the betterment of students' livelihoods and for the upliftment of student voices. I will work to ensure SUA is more accessible and engages students in the decision-making processes while maintaining an equitable hierarchy structure.

I plan to re-open and emphasize communication with ethnic organizations, such as BSU, APISA, Bayanihan, MEChA, SANAI, etc. as well as reinstitute other resources that provide the campus with the diversity it needs. My goal as VPSL is to give students a space where they feel like their opinions can and will be utilized to enhance their experience on campus. This is your campus and you should choose a person that best represents your value of community and someone you believe is ready to make a change about the inequities of students living at this university. A vote for me is a vote for the acknowledgment of your identities, existence, and contributions to be reflected in the decisions that secure resources and guarantee a greater quality of student vitality.

Thank you!

[Endorsement List](#)

Candidate: Jesus Medina

Candidate Statement:

Hello Everyone!

My name is Jesus Medina (he/him), and I'm running to be the Vice President of Student Life! As a Latinx first-generation, second-year Education and Literature double major student, I've used my interests in educational justice and student programming to ensure campus partners carry out their student-centered projects. Currently, I have two years of case management experience with the Student Advocate's Office (SAO) as a Caseworker and the Campus-Wide Programming Chief of Staff, where I provide solutions for high-impact issues.

My Plan of Action:

Promoting Basic Needs: My main priority is connecting the student body with known and unknown resources offered on our campus. Alongside the SAO, I will launch awareness campaigns of welfare services such as contraceptives, academic resources, basic needs initiatives, and more! Since 2021-present, with the Student Advocate's Office team, we proactively allocated \$120k to students experiencing housing insecurities. Such funds covered

housing balances for students both on and off campus, and I plan to do the same next academic year.

Student Body Climate: Display organizations with cultural wealth and values while promoting community engagements (e.g., Sabrosura, Los Mejicas, Mariachi Eterno, African American Theater Arts Troupe). Additionally, expand student involvement with our student government to uplift students' voices, through advocacy and solidarity.

Equitable Advocacy: Collaborate with CAPS and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to host comprehensive mental wellness and self-development workshops, outreach the SAO to increase academic retention pathways, file academic grievances, and support with rent relief.

Food Accessibility: I will continue expanding the SUA Food Pantry, and hold the mission of helping students in existential crisis. Lastly, educate students on how to navigate campus bureaucracy from serving students attempting to do so, and facilitate communication with the university about their needs.

If elected, I will maintain an open dialogue with all of you through social media (IG: @jesusforvpsl), email ((jesusforvpsl@gmail.com), and by talking with you directly. To be both an intermediary and advocate is important to me, especially when creating an influential student life experience. Thank you, and I hope to get your vote!

[Endorsement List](#)

Candidate: Akira Swan

Candidate Statement:

Hi, Slugs!

My name is Akira Swan and I am a first generation student who is extremely passionate about social justice. As a third year, I spent my first year as a UCSC student back at home in San Diego where I experienced housing and food insecurity. These difficulties, on top of the Zoom modality, made it extremely difficult for me to stay motivated and do well in my classes. This being said, my Stevenson core classes really gave me a space where I felt understood and grounded as the topics we discussed resonated with me on a personal level. I aim to increase school spirit and take measures to have students engage and embrace their college themes as a way to carry forward their understanding into their lives after college. As a Legal Studies and Politics double major, I feel as though I have an educated and diverse perspective on how to achieve real change that can establish equity for those who need it. I am currently the SUA Representative for Stevenson Student Council and serve as an Undergrad Rep on the Committee for Affirmative Action and Diversity, but my capabilities in these positions are limited. So what would I do as your VP of Student Life? My main goals as VP of Student Life would be to increase accessibility to resources on campus, hold college-wide events meant to increase

school spirit, and organize students in order to extend our activism to include the greater community.

What would this look like?

- Advocating for more food pantries on campus
- Advocating for college governments to allocate a quarterly emergency fund for students as an extra safety net accessed through Slug Support
- Re-evaluating undergrad wages to ensure fair compensation for the required work load (I believe that a lot of undergrad positions who are greatly contributing to the community are underpaid)
- Establishing more scholarship opportunities for undocumented students who cannot acquire work authorization
- Increasing efforts to aid students in finding off-campus housing
- Advocating for each student, irrespective of whether they live on campus or not, to receive 3 free meals per quarter at our dining halls
- Developing solutions to decrease waste on campus
- Hosting a college-wide field day during Spring quarter where students compete in games and enter giveaways
- Developing more events and opportunities for students to gather and have their voices amplified and heard to discuss improving student life
- Working with the EOP and DRC offices to host more events centered around building community for students within these groups
- Organizing volunteer efforts in collaboration with local groups
- Researching and sending out internship opportunities that correlate with content covered in core courses
- Strategizing with college governments in order to assess student needs across the entire campus
- Increasing efforts to support student and adult staff members that help to maintain our campus such as RAs/NAs, maintenance/ janitorial staff, and dining hall staff

Thank you so much for your consideration! Feel free to reach out to me at ajswan@ucsc.edu.

[Endorsement List](#)

SUA At-Large Representative

Candidate: Thomas Paff

Candidate Statement:

Hey, what's up y'all!

There's a TL:DR at the bottom in case y'all don't want to have to read this all. Honestly, I get it. We're all in this together.

My name's Thomas and I'm looking to run for one of SUA's at-large representative positions. I'll just be straight-up with y'all and say that I don't place a ton of faith in SUA, which is part of the reason I'm running. I've actually been in the position before, though I'm not currently a part of it, and have a decent understanding of how SUA works and how to navigate the space. I'm also the current chair of Cowell Student Senate, so you might've seen me around at a couple of our giveaways or Ice Cream Socials that we've been putting on in recent weeks. Here's what I'll be pushing for if I get elected.

I want SUA to host more campus-wide events. We all have friends at other universities, and they have tons of events that seemingly happen every other week and it's crazy and we just don't have that scene here. We definitely should - we're a University of California, and should have more campus-wide gigs than just Cornucopia.

I'm looking to make sure clubs at this school get more of a spotlight, and honestly just up communications across this school in general. We have literally hundreds of clubs, and guaranteed every person on this campus could find one that they'd find super cool, but this campus makes it really hard to find out about things and doesn't communicate with the students very well. That honestly needs to change, and I hope to make that change happen.

Finally, I'm looking to change a ton of rules within the SUA space that just don't really make sense. Trust me, there's a lot. I've read their constitution, and the amendment that they added two years ago really wasn't thought out well and the consequences of it are definitely going to start rearing their heads in this election cycle. I'll also try to find a way to keep y'all up to date on what's going on in SUA if you want to be kept up, since most people aren't really too familiar with the space.

Anyways, the TL:DR of this is that I want our campus to thrive and I really feel that it should be SUA's prerogative to make sure that the clubs that are so often underlooked a larger part of campus life, as well as host more campus-wide events, and also combat some of the cumbersome legislative aspects of SUA that I feel really weigh it down and make SUA more transparent to everybody. If you like my vibe, vote for me: if you don't, don't. Either way, thanks for reading and cheers to a brighter UCSC. GO SLUGS!!!

Organization Representative

Student Organization: Jewish Student Union

Student Organization Statement:

Hello UCSC Student Body.

The Jewish Student Union is a student organization created to be a place for Jewish students to create community, and to help others learn about Jewish culture.

We are seeking a voting seat in the SUA Assembly in order to help give a voice to Jewish students on campus and to continue our advocacy efforts to make this campus a welcoming place for Jewish students.

Thank you.