

Spring 2015 Campus Elections – Candidate Statements

Student Union Assembly Officers

Brad Mleynek - bmleynek@ucsc.edu - Chair

I have had an amazing experience the past four years working as a Tour Guide, Research Assistant, Crown Student Senate Chair, Resident Advisor, and the current Organizing Director for the SUA! This past year, I wanted to address sustainability issues and focus on coalition building. I did so by creating and hosting the first Campus Clean Up Day with the Sustainability Office's Zero Waste Team, and by authoring the SUA Constitutional Amendments, which would allow for more student org representation. In my final year at UCSC, I will tackle even bigger student issues as your SUA chair. I will start a Health and Wellness Campaign, providing more student leadership opportunities and ensuring that students have the proper resources to live mentally and physically healthy lives. Furthermore, with your guidance, I will reform Measure 8, creating a more responsible SUA budget and making SUA a greater resource for the student body.

Julie Rachel Foster - jrfoster@ucsc.edu - Chair

The administration takes pride in claiming that Slugs are “the Original Authority on Questioning Authority,” but every time we question them they try to silence us. Right now on this campus we are facing tuition hikes, an increased number of hate crimes, and a lack of response to sexual violence reports. Through all of this, administration has remained silent. We need to demand transparency and take back our university.

As your next SUA Chair I will work with all of you to address these issues. I believe students have been starting a movement and the only way to continue making positive change is to respect each other and work together. My priority will be to facilitate a space within SUA where all students feel safe, welcome, and empowered to represent themselves. Together we can improve our campus.

You got a blank space, baby, so write my name! Vote for Julie!

Shubhankar Sharan - shsharan@ucsc.edu - Chair

Hey everyone! I'm Shub and I've spent the past two years as representative and one year as President of College Nine Senate fighting against the lack of direction that has left our student government estranged from our student body. I launched the recent student government survey alongside other SUA members to funnel vital student input into what has been an unaccessible space, have spent countless hours lobbying across the country fighting for student accessibility and affordability, and I have a plan for fixing the SUA. I

will bridge the gap between the SUA and student organizations, implement a series of campaigns crafted by direct public input, host more programs with the purpose of supporting our community and bringing our campus together, and create a dedicated outreach team to dramatically improve SUA's visibility and transparency. It's time for us to take back our student government and finally realize its true potential.

Jabari Brown - jashbrow@ucsc.edu - IVC

Hello, my name is Jabari Brown and I am running for IVC. My involvement on campus began with my participation in the African/Black/Caribbean and Filipino/a student organizations, as well as my time spent working as the Office Manager for Engaging Education, a center that serves under-resourced and underrepresented students. These spaces allowed me to build relationships with students that come in and utilize the space and find comfort at UCSC. As IVC I would like to continue fostering community in three ways. A campaign called "No place for hate" by addressing issues of prejudice and hate bias. "UC We Speak" which surveys the number of student reps on staff/ admin boards and seeing where we can add more student voices. Third is a committee titled "Party with Purpose" which will assure that SUA stands in solidarity with students and that we invest and take ownership of UCSC while having fun.

Manik Sachdeva - msachdev@ucsc.edu - IVC

My name is Manik Sachdeva and I am declaring candidacy for the Office of the Internal Vice Chair! Coming from the Indian Student Association, my goals are to unify ethnic organizations through large events such as a culture fair! As a primary organizer of the Holi Festival, I want to focus on ensuring campus-wide events that unify students, increase diversity, improve student life and involvement. As the future chair of Student Committees on Committees, I will ensure reliability and effectiveness by focusing on current issues for the student body! In order to implement positive change in our daily student lives, I will work on extending dining hall hours and creating a platform for students to collaborate with peers to share rides and provide access to frequently visited locations such as Safeway and Costco! Ultimately, I am dedicated towards improving student life on campus by giving light to our collaborative vision.

Guillermo E. Rogel Jr. 'Gandhi' - grogel@ucsc.edu - EVC

Hello friends! My name is Guillermo 'Gandhi' Rogel and I'm running to be your next External Vice Chair. Since my time here at UC Santa Cruz I've grown to be an active member and leader of our community. As students we face hardship. The struggles that I've seen students face have inspired me to take action and I'm asking you to do the same. Together we must act. The increasing cost of our education along with a hostile campus climate demands attention. We're a community of 17,000 inside a larger community of 60,000. We have the power to challenge the institutions that have caused damage to our UC and our students. We have the power to create change that our institution so desperately needs but only if we're together. Let's take the fight to the

Regents, Governor Brown, and those who oppose us. Help me continue this fight. Thank you.

Travis Mougey - wmougey@ucsc.edu - EVC

Hello fellow slugs! My name is Travis Mougey and I am running for the Office of External Vice Chair. As an out of state student, I came to campus overwhelmed and alone. Since then I have joined many groups-Crown Resident Adviser, Vice President in Tau Kappa Epsilon, Supervisor for University Relations Telephone Outreach Program, UCSC Jazz Ensemble, and the UCSC dive program. These spaces have made UCSC my home.

As your EVC, I simply want to make our home a better place. I will accomplish this by advocating for community safety and involvement as well as address issues concerning our local housing and transportation. On the state level, I will concentrate on education affordability, diversity in education, and transparency of the UC Regents. You don't have to be SUA bred to have an influence. With my direction and your support we can make a difference.

Seamus Howard - sahoward@ucsc.edu - CAA

Hello! My name is Seamus Howard, and I am running for the Commissioner of Academic Affairs! During my time in SUA, I have consistently advocated for students on a variety of issues, including frustrations regarding academic policies. This past year, I have worked under the current Commissioner as an intern, directly learning the ins and outs of the job, and seeing firsthand the academic problems we have on our campus. I plan to directly focus on waitlisting procedure, talking with Administration to give priority to those students who have consistently been denied entrance to key classes necessary for progress in the major and for graduation. Furthermore, I will work with Facilities to fix chairs and desks in large lecture halls desperately needed for basic learning. UCSC is a world-class institution, so let's make sure that our students can experience all it has to offer.

Aykezar Adil - ayadil@ucsc.edu - CoD

Hello, my name is Aykezar Adil and I want to be your next Commissioner of Diversity. I have spent the last two years learning how our university works by serving as a Crown Student Union Assembly (SUA) representative, serving Crown in the Student Fee Advisory Committee, and working as the Chief of Staff to the current Commissioner of Diversity. I have been exposed to and have come to understand the issues that students from all backgrounds face on our campus and I believe I can help alleviate these issues. As your next Commissioner of Diversity I will encourage students to embrace their individual identities to create a safe and inclusive campus climate, institutionalize gender-neutral housing across the campus, and implement more culturally educational campus wide events such as UCSC Holi Festival. I am confident that as your next Commissioner of Diversity, we together can build a safe and allied community.

Sauli Colio - scolio@ucsc.edu - CoD

Hello Slugs! My name is Sauli Colio. I want to be your Commissioner of Diversity.

As the first person in my family to pursue higher education. My first year was one of the hardest, I felt lost, but I was able to persevere. I connected with MEChA and found it to be my home away from home. I served as co-coordinator for the student-initiated, student-led outreach program, ORALE for two years straight. I currently am the CUIP for ChALE a retention program also housed under Engaging Education. I am the most qualified candidate for Commissioner of Diversity because I am passionate about the outreach and retention of students of color on our campus.

Through continued assessment and advocacy, I will address the issues students of color face on our campus. I strongly believe that the SUA can and should support the student body.

Suini Torres - sitorres@ucsc.edu - Organizing Director

I'm Suini Torres and I want to be your next Organizing Director! As Historian under the Office of the Organizing Director, I've developed a great understanding of the office and it's potential. For starters, I plan to improve communication and advertising within the SUA because it lacks a social media presence, which can be improved through outreach. This includes more volunteer opportunities and internships for students and more involvement during orientation and Welcome Week. I also plan on bringing awareness to different movements and issues on campus as well as the UC system. I plan on collaborating with organizations and the colleges to provide more campus-wide events. SUA has had many large events including Edge of Eden, Holi Festival, Campus Clean Up, and UCSC's Got Talent, but UCSC needs more small-scale events that educate students while promoting unity across campus. Thank you for your vote!

Art Motta - amotta@ucsc.edu - Organizing Director

My name is Art Motta. I am running to be your next Organizing Director. This year, as UCSC's director of National Affairs and a board member for the United States Student Association, I advocated at the campus, local, state and national level on issues affecting the access, affordability, diversity and quality of higher education. Further, I have organized efforts making our campus safer and a second home for all students. As Organizing Director, I am committed to fighting for students' rights to take action in Santa Cruz, Sacramento, and Washington D.C. I have the experience and ability to demand campus accountability, solid representation, and a unified student voice with strong awareness of our issues. I am proud of the legacy of political activism and direct action at UCSC. Through continued student engagement, we can ensure constructive

relationships and strategic representation as our student power keeps moving forward in solidarity.

Tamra Owens - tmowens@ucsc.edu - Oakes Representative

Hey Y'all! I'm Tamra Owens and I want to be your Oakes Representative! I have served in the Oakes Senate, represented y'all in SUA as the appointed representative, I was a part of the UCSC delegation to the Student of Color Conference at Merced and the Mixed Ethnicity Conference at Berkeley, and I was the head coordinator of the Oakes clothing drive that donated much needed clothes to homeless families in Santa Cruz. One of my goals this year is to increase Oakes involvement in leadership and outreach in the community by expanding the clothing drive from Oakes to the whole campus. Oakes is a college that is built upon the ideas of justice, activism, and equality, and as your Oakes Representative, I want to continue that legacy.

Jackie Roger - jmroger@ucsc.edu - Kresge Representative

Hello, my name is Jackie Roger and I am a first-year Kresge student running to be your elected SUA representative. Currently, I'm one of the appointed SUA representatives from Kresge Parliament and I'm confident I can use this experience to ensure that decisions made on a university level reflect the values of Kresge students. One issue in particular that I'm passionate about is student safety-- both emotional and physical safety. I plan on working to install ground lights for students walking after dark, hold workshops centered around empowerment and inclusion, and work with other SUA members to expand the police escort service. I will also use social media to streamline student input and strengthen the network between the various Co-ops in Kresge. The Kresge community has a unique and intentional collective consciousness and I would love to help facilitate the growth and development of our community.

Rosa Lubin-Molina - rtlubinm@ucsc.edu - Kresge Representative

My name is Rosa Lubin-Molina, and I am a second year Slug affiliated with Kresge College studying Anthropology and Education. As a Latina woman with deep values in social justice and political equity, I seek to be my college's representative in the Student Union Assembly. Kresge has a rich array of identities, including ethnic, cultural, sexual, and gender, and as its Representative I will seek to promote and preserve this key essence of my college. As a member of UCSC's Students for Justice in Palestine, I have experience in organizing direct student action to protect and stand up for marginalized and disregarded identities created by social and political issues. Through this work, I have become committed to making UCSC a campus that empowers and fosters the voice of the student body, and I hope to apply this to my position as Kresge Representative.

August Valera - avalera@ucsc.edu - Crown Representative

Hey, I'm August Valera, and I'm running for your SUA elected representative. As a member of Crown Senate since entering UCSC, and currently an SUA alternate, I have the experience necessary to perform my duties effectively. I'm a STEM (CE) major and cs12b tutor, so I understand that, as students trying to get a degree, most of us can't keep up with campus politics. Representing Crown, I will attend those 3+ hour meetings so you don't have to, and hold public forums, so you can hold me responsible. There are many things that I personally would like to see, like longer library hours, myUCSC improvements, fiscal responsibility and lowering tuition. I can't promise that I will be able to achieve any of this. The only thing I can promise is my full commitment to this position, as well as the fact that Crown's voice, your voice, will be heard

Atikhun Kanjanakaset - akanjana@ucsc.edu - Crown Representative

Hello Crown! My name is Atikhun Kanjanakaset and I'm running to be your next Crown College Representative in the Student Union Assembly (SUA). I'm a first year student planning to major in Human Biology. I am a member of UC Santa Cruz's division III men's swim team and also a member of the Chinese Student Association. I have multiple years of student government experience from high school and I'm motivated to make a difference in the school. My main platforms are longer library hours, health and fitness, and campus wide activities. My goal is to strengthen the relationship between the ten residential colleges through public events and activities. I believe that improved relationships with each of the colleges can lead to better communication and more organized rallies, as well as improved knowledge of news. I pledge to be an honest and mature leader that will voice students' concerns on campus.

Rohit Dhar - rodhar@ucsc.edu - College Nine Representative

Hello College Nine, my name is Rohit Dhar and I hope to make College 9 the best it can be for its students. As a first-year History major, my experience in being a part of College Nine Senate and SUA Lobby Corps has made me desire to do more for UCSC specifically for the College Nine community. As such, I hope to bring in programs and events that can bring in students all across College 9 for experiences that are educational and fun. Furthermore, I will work with SUA in implementing events that will promote health and wellness for students whether it be mental health, sexual health, nutrition, fitness, etc. In addition, I hope to bridge student orgs more closely with SUA for overall cohesion. As a whole, I firmly believe that as your College Nine Representative, I will endeavor to make your voice heard and your needs fulfilled.

Vanessa Sadsad - vsadsad@ucsc.edu - College Ten Representative

My name is Vanessa Sadsad and I am running to be your next College Ten Representative. As your current Academic Senate Representative and appointed SUA

Representatives, I have demonstrated our commitment to social justice and community. I carried on our ethos by addressing our student needs at the UCSA Student Lobby Conference in Sacramento. With the goal of striving for equity and inclusion, I want to bring a holistic perspective as your representative. I am dedicated to building connections and organizing for action. Ensuring that College Ten is visible and part of the larger conversation on campus. This means listening, leading, and collaborating within our community to respond to issues that are crucial to students. And ensuring the voice of College Ten is heard and part of the larger conversation on campus. I believe in empowering students, engaging emerging groups, and strengthening our community so that we move forward together.

Austin Downs - aldowns@ucsc.edu - College Ten Representative

Hello College Ten residents! My name is Austin Downs and I am running to be your SUA College Representative for this upcoming school year. Although I have been abroad all year, my passion for bettering the lives of C10 students and our community has not lessened but grown even stronger. I hope to utilize the power of direct student action so that our vision for our college is fulfilled as well as expand upon UConsent to ensure that sexual violence is eradicated from our community. See you all next fall

Ramneet Bajwa

Hey everyone! My name is Ramneet Bajwa and I am looking to become your next College Ten SUA Representative. I am currently a first year majoring in Business Management Economics and although I came to campus not knowing exactly where I would fit in, I found a home in many organizations-SUA, College Ten Senate, and the Indian Student Association. As someone who is currently serving as one of the College Ten SUA Representatives and will be working closely with the Housing Office and students as a Resident Assistant next year, I believe that I have the experience, knowledge, and drive necessary to serve the student body and work to improve student life here on campus. It is my goal to address issues students have about housing, transportation, and other matters concerning all my fellow slugs. I promise to work hard and diligently to make a difference on campus.

Chandler Moeller - cmoeller@ucsc.edu - Merrill Representative

Merrill's SUA needs leadership. Having been an appointed SUA representative for Merrill this year, I can fill this role and make our voices at Merrill heard in SUA. I am Chandler Moeller a second year CS major and Dining Hall employee. After having been at Merrill already for about two years, I am very knowledgeable on Merrill's and UCSC's issues. One particular issue that troubles us here at UCSC is the rising costs of education.

My goal is to fight any unneeded rising costs and make sure the SUA's money is spent intelligently and in places that will benefit the students. I am also a huge proponent of transparency and openness. I will make myself available to all students to speak and discuss issues. I want to make sure that every student feels that their voice is being heard.

Lara F. Loesel - lloesel@ucsc.edu - Merrill Representative

Once I am at Merrill, there are two reasons I do not leave. One is the hill. The other is the community. As a SUA college representative, I, Lara Loesel, aim to maintain the foundational aspects of our respective campus: identity and consciousness. Majoring in Feminist Studies and minoring in Latin American Latinx Studies, my commitments – in education and politics alike – exist at the junction of gender, sexuality, class, and race.

A first-generation college attendee and queer mestiza, I am privy to necessary action for fellow marginalized and minoritized students. A certified interpersonal violence and sexual assault peer counselor, workshop facilitator, and youth mentor, I pledge a campaign based on intersectional activism, education accessibility, and social justice advocacy.

Consider aiding me in the disruption of white supremacist and patriarchal logics at UC Santa Cruz as Student Union Assembly Merrill College Representative.

In solidarity,

Lara F. Loesel

Imari Reynolds - ijreynol@ucsc.edu - Cowell Representative

Fellow Banana Slugs, It is with great honor that I announce I am running for the position of Cowell College SUA representative. I have been a significant part of Cowell senate since I stepped foot on this beautiful campus. I have been a part of several organizations within Cowell, and also the greater university family. I hope to continue this work as one of your Cowell College SUA representatives. If elected I would bring to the position the knowledge I have gained from being a part of leadership in Cowell. I can adequately represent the diverse interest of the Cowell community. If elected I hope to expand the knowledge of UConsent, and combat rapidly growing rape culture and ensure that having fun, great, memorable college experiences is safe for everyone. We all face difficult challenges, with your vote and my help we can conquer them all together as a united Cowell family.

Graduate Student Association Officers

Jennifer Teschler and Nadia Roche - jteschle@ucsc.edu and nroche@ucsc.edu - President

We, Nadia Roche and Jennifer Teschler, would like to offer our candidacy for the position of co-president. As current representatives of our departments for the Graduate Student Association (GSA), we feel we are prepared to take on additional responsibility

and labor to represent the graduate students of UCSC in collaboration with other GSA representatives.

In the capacity of co-president, we plan to work within the GSA to build community among graduate students and foster solidarity. We wish to build graduate community through GSA-sponsored events and workshops, as well as financially support other department and organization events. Our goals include better outreach and communication of the what the GSA does and how to become involved to the general student body, as well utilizing the GSA as a platform to voice student needs and issues to the University. These issues include the need for continued support, financial and otherwise, for all graduate students, the decriminalization of student actions and bodies, and that campus-wide access and safety issues are addressed and remediated.

Whitney DeVos - wdevos@ucsc.edu - Internal Vice President

I offer my candidacy for re-election of Internal Vice President (IVP). As GSA IVP in 2014-15, as well as the 2013-14 & 2014-15 graduate representative on the Senate Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) and one of two 2014-15 graduate representatives on the recently-formed Graduate Growth Task Force, I have a wealth of experience interfacing with administration and advocating for a variety of graduate needs, including: lack of affordable housing, striving for equal accessibility of education for all students, improving campus climate, expanding resources for graduate student professionalization and post-matriculation employment opportunities, physical and mental health and wellness, and resisting increases in tuition and mandatory student fees, among others. I have spent the past year re-investing the previously hollowed-out position of GSA IVP with measurable results: the GSA now has 80% representation on Senate committees, up from just 30% before I took office; by targeting and recruiting graduate students to serve in positions relevant to their studies and personal interests, especially students who do not normally attend GSA meetings, I have ensured graduate students have adequate representation on campus committees—and that those who serve independently of GSA receive a stipend. Additionally, as a result of my involvement and personal interest in the UC system, I have a large network with faculty, administrators, staff, and personnel, and a nuanced understanding of the intricate ways in which these constituencies function at UCSC; my background provides access to the necessary channels to continuing to ensure positive change. As 2015-16 IVP, I will continue to work to ensure graduate voices are heard and addressed. Moreover, I will continue to reach out beyond the GSA, encouraging graduate students to serve on committees they are passionate about, working to build community among graduate students and foster solidarity across the campus.

Christopher Kan - chkan@ucsc.edu - Internal Vice President

I am running for your GSA Internal Vice President because I believe that UCSC graduate students deserve support so they can focus on their studies and ground breaking research. UCSC is a fantastic university with a vibrant graduate community. The campus though

has lagged in addressing graduate needs particularly: quality of living and career support. I intend to focus on three areas to materially improve the lives of graduate students and to build resources that will support graduate careers.

First, I will campaign to improve graduate student living standards in the form of guaranteed TAs for normative time and, subsidized affordable housing. I believe that every graduate student deserves a steady income during their degree as well as dignified housing.

Second, I will continue and further my efforts to expand career resources. Graduate students more than ever are heading into careers besides academia. I will build campus support for seminars, workshops and classes that help students transition to these careers. I have already begun work in this area as a co-author on an academic senate supported proposal for a new Center for the Advancement of Teaching (CAT). The CAT will be a hub for teacher training and a place to learn the latest pedagogical methods. It will support graduate students seeking to teach professionally. I intend to continue work in this area to build resources for other careers paths such as government and industry.

Third, I will oppose increases in fees such as parking, housing and tuition. I have and will continue to articulate to the administration that graduate students are the university's most vulnerable employees and should be exempt from fee increases.

I would greatly appreciate your support and deeply value the opportunity to be your next Internal Vice President.

Rebecca Ora - rora@ucsc.edu - External Vice President

I hope to continue to serve on the UCSA Board of Directors, where I have continued to work toward equity among schools in the UC system, gaining attention and serious consideration of graduate issues, and the general interests of UC students. As a member of UCSA, I hope to continue to fight tuition increases--which also affect grads!--lobby the state for increased support, better graduate experiences and professional prospects, and respond to serious climatic issues and shortages of responsive resources on our campuses. As a strong and diligent voice on the board, I try to make sure that our campus is not overlooked in favor of the interests of larger, more high-profile UC's. To do so, I have attended every UCSA meeting this year, participated in meetings with President Napolitano and Governor Brown's office, and attended Regents' Meetings--all to carry the voices and interests of students forward. I hope to continue to work on the current graduate campaign, which deals with a more democratic hiring and retention process as regards faculty, and the problem of lack of diversity in faculty populations. I also think there are issues we can work on that greatly affect our students, some of which are not even acknowledged or understood by those in positions of power: lack of longitudinal guarantees for Ph.D students, post-ABD tuition fees, the affects of cutbacks on TA burdens, and the neglect of graduate tuition increase by all proposals by the state to increase UC funding are a few.

Miten Jain - miten@soe.ucsc.edu - Secretary/Webmaster

I have been involved extensively with the GSA for 4 years now, in capacities as department representative and IVP at times. I feel that the GSA strives for improving graduate student experience on campus and am extremely interested in making a bigger contribution to the cause as an e-board member. During my terms, I have been involved as a GSA rep to Student Fees Advisory Committee, and Waste Control Committee and been part of changes that go toward student benefits real-time. I strive for creating better governance with GSA as a student body and contribute towards excellent opportunities and experience for graduate students at UCSC.

Jess Whatcott and Edher Zamudio -
jesswhatcott@ucsc.edu and ezamudio@ucsc.edu - **Solidarity Officer**

We are running together for the position of Solidarity Officer because we are passionate about building community among underrepresented graduate students, and supporting graduate students of color, immigrant grads, queer grads, graduate students with disabilities, women in the STEM fields, first generation low-income grads, and other marginalized graduate students in advocating for their needs. Some of the issues facing underrepresented students, that we are passionate about are: developing resources for AB 540 graduate students; working with other divisions on campus to prevent and respond to sexualized violence and violence against LGBTQ campus members; addressing the low acceptance rates of graduate students of color; lack of support for and sometimes outright hostility against graduate students by their departments; and lack of affordability of housing, cost of living in general, and tuition/fees, which impacts underrepresented students particularly hard as they are more likely to lack additional resources outside of their campus financial support.

Some of the strategies we would take to respond to these issues are: community building activities among graduate students, peer mentoring, and building relationships with the undergraduate community; supporting marginalized graduate students in bringing speakers and organizing events that raise awareness about our struggles; encouraging and supporting opportunities for marginalized students to speak to administrators and legislators about our needs; and monitoring UCSC for compliance with relevant federal and state law and UC initiatives, such as around it's duties to support AB 540 students and to address sexualized violence.