

PRESIDENT

Ayo Banjo

My Fellow UCSC Family,

We live in an era of disillusion, where the marginalization of our students prevails, while administration simultaneously perpetuates a framework of disempowerment, while housing/food costs rise without increasing UCSC minimum wages, while sexual violence continues to pervade within our “safe” community. UCSC trends, “Authority on questioning authority.”

Bull.

As a co-organizer of securing affordable housing and tuition; and improving accessibility of mental health facilities and food security, our student struggles will be challenged with united student advocacy.

As your SUA President, I strive to serve the student body, integrating an online database aiding in combatting systematic sexual violence, incorporating a Micro-Macroaggression program re-asserting faculty accountability, and to re-empower students by establishing our very own Student Action Reserve, wherein WE decide how to spend our capitol, finalizing our Student Center, and establishing campus-wide townhalls, fast-tracking student-voiced concerns to admin.

Together, let us unite, with student solidarity.

-A.B.

Kaia Partlow

Hey slugs! My name is Kaia Partlow and honestly I am tired. I am tired of a lack of direction and more importantly I am tired of UCSC’s failure to properly aid their students. Students with disabilities. Students who are without basic needs. Students who are victims of sexual assault. Students who are underrepresented. I am here with you in solidarity and together our voices will not be silenced.

As your SUA President, I will work to advocate and demand action for hardships no student should have to face alone. We should not have to convince the UCSC administration that there are students living in repulsive places that are ridiculously expensive. All students regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and/or religious affiliation deserve affordable housing prices in sustainable living conditions. The time is now for students of every background to come together. Are you in?

VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Keshav Kumar

Hey Slugs, as your next Internal Vice President I will use student fees to purchase crucial items that you all need and disperse them for free and at subsidized costs, I will also continue the community rental peer advising program, and play the role of community representative to residents of the city. I’m a first generation college student who has served both as the elected

representative and SCOC representative for Cowell college. I've also worked on several city council campaigns, in the Mayor of Santa Cruz's office, and at a policy research non-profit in town. I believe I'm qualified because I have experience in promoting communication through social media, analyzing local housing policy, and leading campaigns to create practical change.

VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Thảo Lê

My name is Thảo Lê and I'm running to be your next VP of External Affairs.

We are in a crisis. Between rising tuition and housing costs, it's becoming increasingly difficult for students, especially low-income students of color, to have their basic needs met, much less retain quality education at this neoliberal university.

While attending community college, I was in student government and organized fellow students to fight for renters' rights and protections in the City of San José. My experiences with community organizing, community-based research, and student government have taught me how to build coalitions and fight for institutional change.

As EVP, I will utilize the resources and networks of the SUA and UCSA to continue to build grassroots student power locally and statewide, in solidarity with workers and non-student tenants, to confront the UCSC Administration, UC Regents, and political terrain of the City and County of Santa Cruz.

Davon Thomas

Hey Slugs,

My name is Davon Thomas, and I'm running to be your next Vice President of External Affairs. As the Chief of Staff to this very office, the UCSC Student Director on the Santa Cruz Metro Board, and the representative for all 200,000 UC undergraduates on the University Committee on Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Equity, I can say without a doubt that I am the most qualified person for this position.

As a Black and Queer student on this campus, I know how hard it can be to navigate the space. However, I have never allowed that to deter me from my work, only motivate me. SUA doesn't have the best relationship with the student body, but I am willing to put in the work to foster a community for all of us to thrive in.

VICE PRESIDENT OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Enrique Yarce Martinez

Fellow students, my name is Enrique Yarce Martinez and I'm running to be your next VP of Diversity & Inclusion! Being an immigrant and growing up in an immigrant household, I know what it's like to face adversity in this country. Given the current national rhetoric against immigrants and diversity, UCSC needs someone that will champion these causes and create a more comfortable environment for students of marginalized backgrounds.

I am a Community College transfer student where I was the first VP of Diversity which made me aware of how student government bureaucracy functions. I have both experience in navigating the system and being a community organizer.

My grassroots experience has taught me how to organize people to create community change. I believe that change comes from the bottom and as VPDI, I will work with students to create the change we want to see at this institution.

Miguel-Angel Mendez

Hello, my name is Miguel-Angel Mendez and I am running for VP of Diversity and Inclusion for the Student Union Assembly (SUA) 2018/2019. I am a fourth year CRES and Fine Arts student from San Diego CA. I am running for this position because I recognize a need for student causes and activism to see some form of continuity. By this I am referring to the last two holders of the position, as they had very different visions for it. My goal is to build upon what the previous VP, Katherine Le, has been doing in terms of relationships with administrators, and partnerships with student organizations, as well as the focus on creating programs for our students that the university neglects. I also believe I am well positioned to accomplish that and more because I am an initiative driven individual with leadership experience across different student groups.

VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Shingen Chen

The never ending thirst for knowledge has been with me since I was little. I was brought up in three different cultures and can communicate in two different languages and a dialect at a very young age. Academics plays a major role in my life because it challenges me to learn more which led me to study English and French as a secondary language in Japan. I joined the debate team in order to practice speaking English fluently and became a semifinalist for the Big Think tournament for a spot to compete nationally. I have heard some members of my community complain about enrollment times, the frustrations of the financial aid office, and the desire for more classes that can be used for everyday life. I seek to improve the academic environment of this awesome university so that we can all divulge into the pursuit of academic success.

Lauren Woo

My name is Lauren Woo and I am excited to announce my candidacy for the Student Union Assembly Vice President of Academic Affairs!

I currently work as the Chief of Staff for the SUA Office of Academic Affairs, chair of Student Academic Senate and undergraduate representative on the Committee on Educational Policy. Given the nature of these commitments, much of my year has been focused on improving the student academic experience at UCSC, mainly through providing free testing materials to students, launching the Mental Health Fair to advance mental health awareness, and facilitating the Classroom and Lecture Availability Student Survey, in the pursuit of advocating for student academics issues.

If elected, I will focus on textbook affordability, securing a testing space for students with DRC accommodations or enrolled in online courses, and institutionalize ways to provide free testing materials to all students.

VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT LIFE

Bella Bullock

Hi Slugs!

My name is Bella Bullock, and I'm running to be your next Vice President of Student Life. As VP of Student Life, I want to carry on this position with a focus on attacking the issues of food insecurity in tangent to mental health.

As the current Campus Wide Programs Coordinator under the Student Life Office of the SUA, I planned the Thanksgiving Week events in the fall, a Movie Night, a Tax Day, fundraising events for student aid, and much more. These events were all successful; likewise, if elected, I would want to build off these events and make more events' around mental health. Whether it be not having enough money to pay for books, not having enough food, or not having work, I will create opportunities for students to overcome these obstacles. I will make all of you and your well-being my number one priority.

Eric Louwerens

My name is Eric Louwerens and I am running for SUA Vice President of Student Life. I want to run because the staggering disconnect between SUA, the residential colleges, and the student body is too big to be ignored. As the current chair of Merrill Student Government, I'm confident that I have the skills needed for this job, such as collaborating with others to plan large scale events, building community, and budgeting. My platform addresses all facets of UCSC student life - I want to continue the process of establishing a stronger campus community that connects SUA to the colleges, and the colleges to each other, which I will accomplish by hosting concerts in the quarry, movie screenings, and shows. I also want to ensure that students continue to have access to essential services, and will advocate on their behalf to receive funding for crucial resources, such as the food pantry.

COLLEGE 9

Saúl Soto

During my time as a Senator and then Vice President of Internal Affairs for College Nine, I got to witness first hand how student government can positively affect students. I believe I have a lot to offer the SUA space and feel that I have the necessary leadership skills to fill the role as a representative. Being part of the SUA would allow me to continue helping students as they strive to achieve success at our beautiful campus. I believe that I have the necessary strengths to ensure that the voices of students are represented and that their ideas are implemented.

COLLEGE 10

No Candidate

COWELL COLLEGE

No Candidate

CROWN COLLEGE

No Candidate

MERRILL COLLEGE

Emma Cunningham

Hey y'all, my name is Emma.

I am a second-year cognitive science major, and I am incredibly excited to represent Merrill College in the Student Union Assembly. I have spent the past year as a member of Merrill Student Government and as a representative for Merrill in SUA. I am personally striving to make SUA a receptive environment for students to voice their needs or interests for change on campus, and to ensure that the student body has a strong voice in the work we do every day. I am eager to listen to underrepresented groups on campus and work with them to bring forth changes that will allow for more visibility and comfort for every student at UCSC. Student voices are powerful, and my goal is to make SUA a space dedicated to addressing the needs and concerns that are most important to students, both at Merrill and campus-wide.

Alicia Freedman

My name is Alicia Freedman and I am running to be your Merrill College representative to SUA because this school isn't doing enough to ensure that students are safe. Everyone deserves to know that they're safe from ICE, sexual violence, hunger, and homelessness. Everyone should be mentally and emotionally supported - no one should have to wait a month for a CAPS appointment. Tuition is ridiculous and the school should not charge more while cutting our class time. I've been your interim representative since Winter and have been actively involved in Merrill Student Government (MSG) and worked as an RA for the past two years. I've extensively programmed around issues of gun violence, food access, housing, and mental health and am developing an SUA committee to radically reevaluate the current Title IX process. I've seen the effects these issues have had on students and I'm ready to fight for greater change.

KRESGE COLLEGE

No Candidate

OAKES COLLEGE

Yonatan Melesse

Hello, my name is Yonatan and I am running to be your SUA representative next year. I am a first year student majoring in Computer Science and I've held this position for the last two quarters as your appointed representative from Oakes Senate. If I'm elected as your SUA Representative, my main focus would be to instill our college values of diversity and inclusiveness into SUA. My plan is to strengthen the internal parts of our student government which would allow SUA to better serve the community. I also plan on increasing student involvement in government by getting the student body more involved and informed about both SUA and their respective college projects. Thank you for your time, consideration, and I hope to have our support.

Brandon Zuniga

Hello, my name is Brandon Zuniga and I am running for Oakes College Elected Representative. I am third year transfer student and I am a premed Psychology major. My involvement in student government began at my community college as the Inter Club Council Rep for the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. Upon my arrival to UCSC, I promptly began attending Oakes Senate and was given the Alternate Rep position. Throughout the school year, I have eagerly awaited the opportunity to be able to serve my college. Being a part of the SUA is something I genuinely enjoy, and I truly wish to be a part of this space. I'm running for this position because I am passionate about serving Oakes college and making sure that their voice is heard within the SUA. If elected, I will unwaveringly represent and tend to the Oakes student body. Thank you for your consideration.

PORTER COLLEGE

Devyn Ellis

Hello! My name is Devyn Ellis, and I am very excited to announce that I am running for the position of Student Union Assembly College Representative. I am a first year Politics major affiliated with Porter College, and becoming part of the student government has always been a dream of mine. I want to give a voice to students who feel voiceless. I am an experienced and motivated leader, and I want to give the student body the platform that they deserve. The central issues that I would like to address during my time in office are the skyrocketing university tuition and fees, the ethical treatment and compensation of staff members on campus, and reasonable housing accommodations that challenge the issue of overcrowding at our school. I want to create significant change that will affect our lives, and future students. Thank you, I hope I have your vote!

RACHEL CARSON COLLEGE

No Candidate

STEVENSON COLLEGE

Cameron Elliott

Hello Stevensonians,

I am currently one of the three Stevenson SUA Representatives, Secretary of Stevenson Student Council, and a member of UCSC's Lobby Corps. If chosen to continue as an SUA Representative for Stevenson, I will continue to advocate in Sacramento on behalf of students. Issues that I have brought to the attention of our legislators include our housing crisis, lack of mental health resources, overcrowded classrooms, overcrowded buses, overcrowded dorms, and the need for more state funding to stop the tuition hike. Most of the issues that we face on our campus are a result of the fact that the State of California has not increased funding for the UC since 2001, yet we have enrolled thousands of more students since then and currently have a state budget surplus of over six billion dollars that should be invested in higher education. Vote for me, so I can represent you.

Mark O'Neal

Hello, Stevenson College. My name is Mark O'Neal and I am a third year transfer student working to major in English literature as well as minor in legal studies and political sciences. As an aspiring defense litigator for the Innocence Project, I am impassioned over the prospect of advocating the voice of Stevenson College as your SUA Representative. Having worked closely with the Law Offices of Borg and Duisters as an intern, operated amidst city officials and public relations professionals to begin the construction of a large scale renewable power solution, and as the former president of MiraCosta's Phi Theta Kappa honors society, I am confident that I can represent the voice of Stevenson College with integrity, professionalism, and, most importantly, respect. As a voice of the students, I thrive on regular feedback, so please feel comfortable to reach out to me so I may be your best representative.