

# Candidate Statements 2020

## President

### **Joshua Ahn Ta**

Hello everyone! My name is Joshua Anh Ta and I hope to get elected by you to become the next Student Union Assembly candidate.

I am a 2nd-year, Politics major and currently intern under the SUA Advisor and I want your support to become the next President.

For my presidency, I'd love to focus on these goals - or my platform I'd say

1. Student empowerment - connecting the SUA to the undergraduate body. Make it easier for students to reach and contact the SUA. Making sure that the SUA listens and acts on issues that are most important at the point.
2. Uphold the SUA mission and goals - I believe that the president is not someone who only make promises and plans but who's also able to work with the other officers as a team and also work with departments, administrators and represent students in spaces that are usually more exclusive.
3. Address Fiscal Responsibilities & Transparency - All undergraduate students pay an amount to the SUA, and I want to take actions to assure fiscal responsibility for the SUA as well as making sure students know what and where their money is being spent on.

For more detailed platform and information, please visit: TBA

## **Simelia Rogers**

Hello  
Slugs,

My name is Simelia Rogers, I am a 2nd-year Politics major. I am thrilled to announce my candidacy for SUA President.

As a Legislative Analyst during my freshman year, I lobbied elected officials in Sacramento and Washington D.C around higher education issues including tuition, Title IX changes, and basic needs within the UC. As Chief of Staff to the current SUA President, I've successfully advocated for the protection of sexual health and climate policy on campus, organized the campus-wide New York Times subscription, and have led several student safety initiatives.

### **Platforms:**

**Emergency Preparedness:** Create an emergency task force with the responsibility of creating new student-worker protection policies.

**Campus Climate & Safety:** We will establish sustainable and effective resources for sexual and mental health across campus through community-driven data.

**Community Relations:** We intend to leverage student voice and student power in local government by forming a joint commission between SUA and City Relations to create formal positions for students in local bodies.

I will work to create transparency both within the SUA and in the SUA's relationship with the student body by allowing students the opportunity to engage in meaningful ways with the initiatives set forth by the SUA.

## Shivika Sivakumar

Wonder why you are reading this amid a pandemic? These uncertain times are exactly when taking action, making change, and creating a better future are more important than ever. Precisely why I am running to be President of the Student Union Assembly.

Hey UCSC,

I am Shivika Sivakumar (she/her/hers), a second year Computer Science and Politics double major passionate about using technology for social good. I am currently the Vice President of External Affairs of College Nine, the SUA Appointed Representative, Outreach Officer of Association for Computing Machinery and the Co-founder of GraceHacks. Previously, I was the Secretary of Student Academic Senate, Associate Elections Commissioner, and an Intern at the Office of the President.

My primary goals as President are to:

- *Rebuild* connection with students and mend relationships with organizations to increase transparency and outreach.
- *Reform* goals to better address campus problems and implement actual changes that address key student issues.
- *Represent* students and be the UCSC student voice when talking to admin, faculty, city, and the UC system.

Link to my PLATFORM that addresses these goals is:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1milYvRrdfjkGRELzK5Ua-0TLBhciOUrSgq\\_LWw5dm5w/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1milYvRrdfjkGRELzK5Ua-0TLBhciOUrSgq_LWw5dm5w/edit?usp=sharing)

It's not about me, it's about you, and it's about us!  
JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN.

## **VP of Academic Affairs**

### **David Miller Shevelev**

Ever had a test where the professor provided the scantrons for free? If you have, it's because of the Vice President of Academic Affairs Free Testing Materials Initiative. For the last three years, the office has worked to ensure you don't have to waste your time and money going to get testing materials. And for the last year, I have had the pleasure of contributing to this work while working in the Academic Affairs office.

However, I think there is a lot more we can be doing (I know, more than free scantrons??).

But first, I should tell you who I am. My name is David. I am a DRC affiliate, and I love tedious and complex policy issues. Since high school, I have represented students on committees and working groups (I know, exciting stuff!) trying to improve the way we teach. Sometimes teachers need to learn more about teaching. I have also worked on housing, labor, and conduct issues, trying to advocate for students who have been treated unfairly by the system.

If you elect me VP Academic Affairs, I am going to continue providing free scantrons while fighting to make education policy better serve you.

## VP of External Affairs

### **Rojina Bozorgnia**

Hi y'all!

My name is Rojina Bozorgnia (she/they), and I'm excited to announce my candidacy for the Student Union Assembly VP of External Affairs.

Since the fall of my freshman year, I've devoted myself to advocating for students through the EVP office through organizing, coalition building, and lobbying legislators. In my role as Legislative Director, we've stopped the regents from passing tuition hikes, advocated for safe sleeping spaces for homeless students, gotten additional funding for food pantries, and registered hundreds of students to vote. Additionally, as the undergrad rep to the UC Title IX Student Advisory Board, I've been on the front lines of reforming Title IX policy.

Here are the major initiatives I'd like the office to continue to prioritize:

- **Tuition Hikes:** Fight tuition hikes and push for the reduction of out-of-tuition costs
- **Racial Justice:** Increase funding for retention and recruitment programs and prioritize immigration issues during federal advocacy trips
- **Basic Needs:** Advocate for additional funding for the UC to prioritize disability resources, provide additional grants for disadvantaged students, and increase funding for mental health resources

Thank you, and I hope you'll join me in continuing to build a better, brighter, and more inclusive future for all.

## **VP of Internal Affairs**

### **Daniel Halpern-DeVries**

Hello UCSC.

My name is Daniel Halpern-DeVries, and I am hoping to be elected as SUA Internal Vice President.

To first say a little about myself, I am currently a freshman here at UCSC majoring in Physics. I have fallen in love with this campus and community, and have spent the past few quarters participating in student government as a representative, as well as sitting on the Student Committee on Committees. The main thing I have noticed, coming in from the outside, is the lack of transparency of what is going on to the average student, and the lack of communication with administration of what students want. My goal, if elected, is to outreach about opportunities for students to influence university policy, and to help facilitate greater transparency in both the SUA, and the administration.

One of the main duties of IVP is to serve as the chair of the SCOC, which I have been a member of for the past year. Having experience with the committee, and the process, I hope to be able to use the position as chair to help improve the process, and get more students involved with the administration process.

Thank you for your time.

## **Chloe Mietzel**

Hello fellow Slugs, my name is Chloe Mietzel and I am running for the position of Vice President of Internal Affairs for the 2020-2021 school year. I am running for this position because I want students to feel supported on campus. There are many pressing issues at UCSC, and I want to be a part of the solution. As your Vice President of Internal Affairs, my commitment would be to solve these campus-wide issues by taking on a coalition approach to combat these problems together. I am also very receptive to the wants and needs of students, and would love to implement more student outreach.

I am also well qualified for this position. Last fall, I was a government affairs intern for a nonprofit in Washington, D.C. During my time as an intern, I developed strong advocacy and leadership skills that I would be able to emulate in this role. In addition, I am currently the coalitions intern for the New Voters Project- a campaign associated with UCSC CALPIRG- that has provided me the opportunity to get more involved on campus and strengthen my relationships with other students and professors.

Thank you for your time, and go slugs!

## **VP of Diversity & Inclusion**

### **Saxon Stahl**

With our campus climate more tumultuous than ever, my passion for advocacy has grown over the past couple of years at UCSC in an attempt to unify our campus & give visibility & support to folx who strive to be seen and/or heard by our campus administration. As the Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion, I will continue the work of my predecessor to not only make UCSC administration more accessible to folx, but the Student Union Assembly as well. I plan on accomplishing this through my platform:

- **Campus Retention**
  - Empower ethnic & identity organizations across campus with various workshops, scholarship opportunities, & events celebrating culture & diversity on our campus.
  - Continue holding UCSC administration accountable for racially motivated violence on our campus.
- **Student Safety**
  - Provide emergency supplies & increase awareness of hazards on our campus in order to inform students on what to do in case of natural, technological, or human caused disasters through workshops & other incentives.
- **Administration Accessibility**
  - Increase the frequency of town halls & tabling events of the Student Union Assembly to provide opportunities of involvement for folx.
  - Continue pushing for more POC & LGBTQ+ staff on our campus, especially within UCSC administration.

# **Vice President of Student Life**

**Jimmy Gomez\***

Hey everyone!! My name is Jimmy Gomez, and I'm excited to run for Vice President of Student Life. I'm a sophomore double majoring in MCD Biology and Psychology with a Minor in Education and love community outreaching with folks across our fantastic campus. As one of the six previous campus-wide EOP Peer Advisers, I've had the privilege of combating educational/health disparities and allocating adequate resources to marginalized students.

My passion for student life and civic engagement granted me the motivation to create a non-profit organization, called the Big Sibling Program, in Watsonville. Furthermore, my active involvement with numerous cultural, medical, and greek life organizations is one of the reasons I have been able to spread awareness of the resources minimally exposed to both undergraduates and graduate students.

My platforms for this upcoming year would include targeting mental health and housing/food insecurity affecting over 40% of the entire UC system. By working alongside the Vice President of Academic Affairs and expanding the efforts of the newly constructed Student Advocate Office, I can produce stellar results and transparency on all our efforts. Thanks for taking an interest in this election, and I hope to become your student representative!!

## **STUDENT Reps**

### **Jakob Locke**

Hey y'all,

My name is Jakob Locke and I am running to be your SUA Representative for Stevenson College. Over the course of this academic year, I have worked hard with my fellow representatives to ensure that the voices, input & concerns of Stevenson students were represented fully within the SUA. While this wasn't always easy, with the meetings lasting up to 4 hours on a Tuesday night, I made sure to go to every single one. I also made sure to attend all of the Stevenson Student Council meetings, so my fellow representatives and I could inform the Stevenson population of the issues that are affecting them. The key points I would like to focus on within the upcoming year are:

- **Transparency**: between the SUA and the Undergraduate body, as well as maintaining a clear line of communication between SSC, the SUA, & myself.
- **Maintaining Diversity**: to ensure a safe space for frequently marginalized communities & to increase the diversity in viewpoints within the space.
- **Accessibility**: Whether it be low-income students being unable to afford academic resources, or trans & gender non-conforming students unable to locate a gender-neutral restroom, accessibility is an issue throughout most universities, and should be advocated for.