

MEASURE 5

Student Union Assembly (SUA)/ Student Voices on Committees (SVOC) Merger

Shall the undergraduate students of UCSC amend the SUA Constitution to provide that the Student Voice on Committees (SVOC) be a standing committee of the Student Union Assembly, according to to Article Four (see below)

MEASURE 5 BALLOT STATEMENT

The SUA is the campus-wide undergraduate student government, which was created in 1985 through a campus wide vote so students could have a unified student voice. All undergraduates are members of the Student Union Assembly and are represented by four elected officers, three representatives from each of the colleges, as well as one representative from the African/Black Student Alliance (A/BSA), Asian Pacific Islander Student Alliance (APISA), Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Network, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlan (MEChA), and Student Alliance of North American Indians (SANAI).

In 1987, two years after the SUA was created, SUA sponsored a referendum to establish the Intercollegiate Council on Student Appointments (ICCSA) now called Student Voice on Committees (SVOC). The SVOC is composed of appointed representatives from each college. Their responsibility is to recruit and place undergraduate students on campus-wide committees that deal with issues such as Transportation/Parking and Financial Aid.

A vote in favor of this measure will change the constitution to provide that the Student Voice on Committees (SVOC) is a permanent standing committee of the undergraduate student government (SUA).

A vote against this measure will keep the Student Union Assembly and Student Voice on Committees as separate organizations.

If amended, Article Four will read as follows:

ARTICLE FOUR: ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES OF THE STUDENT UNION ASSEMBLY

Section 1. Student Committee on Committees (SCOC)

- A. The Student Committee on Committees shall be a standing committee of the SUA
- B. Each college shall appoint, by means of their choice, one representative to the SCOC. The chair of the SCOC shall be chosen by a majority vote of those appointed to the SCOC.
- C. The SCOC shall appoint student representatives to campus-wide committees and shall recruit and track students on those committees.
- D. The SCOC shall work in collaboration with members of the SUA and student representatives that serve on campus-wide committees to discuss and inform students about important issues via quarterly town halls and/or forums.
- E. The SCOC shall carry out any other duties set forth in this constitution or the bylaws.

The current constitution shall be amended as follows (proposed sections *italicized*):

ARTICLE FOUR: ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES OF THE STUDENT UNION ASSEMBLY

Section 1. *Student* Committee on Committees (SCOC)

- ~~A. Each college delegation shall name one member of their college delegation to sit on the COC~~

~~B. The Chair of the COC shall be elected by the full Assembly from the eight college representatives.~~

~~C. The COC shall coordinate efforts with the intercollegiate council on student appointments (ICCOSA) in facilitating the appointment and tracking of student representatives to all campus wide committees.~~

~~D. The committee shall monitor the activities of the ICCOSA. The ICCOSA shall be responsible for providing any information requested by the SUA.~~

~~E. Intercollegiate council on student appointments-Student Committee on Committees (SCOC)~~

~~1. The ICCOSA shall be a separate entity from the SUA. The Student Committee on Committees shall be a standing committee of the SUA~~

~~2. Each college shall appoint, by means of their choice, one representative to the ICCOSA-SCOC. Majority vote of those appointed to the ICCOSA.~~

~~3. The chair of the ICCOSA-SCOC shall be chosen by majority vote of those appointed to the ICCOSA-SCOC.~~

~~4. The ICCOSA-SCOC shall appoint student representatives to campus-wide committees and will be held responsible for the recruitment and tracking of students on campus wide committees.~~

~~5. The SCOC shall work in collaboration with member of the SUA and student representatives that serve on campus-wide committees to discuss and inform students about important issues via quarterly townhalls and/or forums~~

If the proposed new SUA constitution is ratified, the Student Voice on Committees shall become the Student Committee on Committees as outlined in that constitution.

PRO/CON Statements for Measure 5

Pro: Katie Peck

Vote YES on Measure 5 to merge SUA and SVOC!!

A vote in favor of this measure will not result in any change in either of the two organization's missions to advocate on the behalf of the student body at UCSC.

In fact, a vote in favor of this measure will at last hold these two entities accountable to one another, and therefore, to the student body at large. Each organization will continue to perform the duties they were created for, but the merger will enhance their communication among student leaders and within the campus community.

Vote YES on measure 5 to merge SUA and SVOC!!

Pro: Vicky Tarumoto

As one of the council members of SVOC (Student Voice on Committees) I am in favor of the combining of the SUA (Student Union Assembly) and SVOC. Currently, miscommunication has occurred. I feel that SUA has made significant efforts to try and resolve the issues that have arisen as a council member.

I have observed that both organizations are in favor of unity and student advocacy. I feel that there is no better opportunity to combine SUA and SVOC as the present election. This merge will allow the SUA and the SVOC to better fulfill their purposes. The SUA will still consist of five organizations (A/BSA, SANAI, MEChA, GLBTN, and APISA) and the colleges, and the SVOC will still recommend students to committees through the college council members. With these combined, the voice of the students will truly be heard and recognized.

This is an amendment to our SUA constitution. There is only one way to amend the constitution and that is to have students vote. Please vote yes on this measure.

Pro: the "Grass Roots Alliance for Student Power" (GRASP)

In unity there is strength. Since the beginning of UCSC, the student voice has been split. Considering the events at UC Berkeley just a few years prior to UCSC's opening, this is no surprise. What administrator would want to deal a united the student body capable of exerting real power on this campus?

In 1985, students took the first steps to unite on a campus-wide level. The Student Union Assembly was created to give the students a real voice. The students of UCSC now had a voice recognized by the Chancellor and the UC Regents.

One of the most effective means of advocating for students on this campus is through campus-wide advisory committees. When SUA was created, it included a Committee on Committees (COC), which would appoint student representatives to those committees.

Unfortunately, the unity that was fostered in 1985 did not last, and the student voice was split into two groups. Through an amendment to the SUA constitution, the power to appoint student representatives was removed from SUA and vested in the Intercollegiate Council on Student Appointments. While the old COC still technically existed, the bond between the student government and student committee representatives was effectively severed.

It has been 15 years since that amendment. In that time, there have been efforts to reunite the student voice and reclaim the student power that comes from a focused channel of representation. In 1995, an opinion poll asked if the two groups, SUA and ICSA should be combined. The measure gained overwhelming (87%) support, yet the groups remain separate and disconnected. It is time to ask a binding question.

Shall the Student Voice on Committees (formerly called ICSA) be reincorporated into the SUA as a standing committee?

Should there exist a focused channel of representation through the student government to effectively advocate student opinions to the Academic Senate and administration?

Shall the strength of our ten thousand voices be rallied to make this campus a place where students truly have power?

Unite or Divide?
You Decide.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE 5

Pro: Chris Amico; Campus Organizing Director; Student Union Assembly

Greetings, I am a student representative to the Academic Senate's Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), appointed by the Student Voice on Committees. Throughout my experience working with the Student Union Assembly (the recognized voice of UCSC students), the Academic Senate and the SVOC, I have noticed that there are institutional flaws in the structure of student representation that greatly limit student power on this campus. The following concerns were presented to SVOC in a joint meeting with the SUA officers:

Institutional Problems

- There is no functional and institutionalized mechanism for student representatives on committees to get information out to the student body at large.
- There is no institutional way for SUA to directly advocate or be represented on these committees.
- There is no institutional link between SUA and SVOC.
- There is no institutional accountability for student representatives on committees.
- There is no institutional memory left behind on the issues that occurred in previous years.

The most effective way to truly create student power on campus is to unite the student voice under one roof. As students, we need to put our house in order and bring the Student Voice on Committees back into the fold of the Student Union Assembly.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE 5

Pro: Lee Maranto; CUIP Intern; SOAR Program Coordinator; Oakes College

The Unification of Student Voice At UCSC

If we want accountability and student inclusion into the important processes at this university, then it makes sense to have the responsibility of appointing student voices to come from the student leaders in our community. Currently, SVOC is responsible for appointing student representation on ALL committees.

This includes the Student Fee Advisory Committee, The Academic Senate, TAPS, and the Committee on Educational Policy as well as the Committee on Ethnic Programming. If a separate body does this appointing, then we can not ensure that the interests of the student body are being reflected or represented. The representation that is already on SUA includes every college, student organizations and the SUA office. Each of these representatives are student-elected leadership. Shouldn't the student have as much of a voice in our representation on committees as well? I think so.

Pro: Layla Razavi

As an SVOC appointee to an important committee, I have seen SVOC appoint students to important committees that affect our everyday lives, such as TAPS and the Academic Senate. These committees often control millions of dollars from student fees, our tuition money. In the past, these positions have gone unfilled or student representatives have voted against the interests

of students. A student, appointed by SVOC, voted in favor of mandatory grades when 80% of the student body opposed it. Our voice is often misrepresented or even unheard. Members of administration have approached me, as an SVOC appointee, and said they have a hard time addressing student concerns because their students can't agree on anything, they grow weary of involving students in the decision making process because they hear conflicting interests from SVOC and SUA. Ideally, I would like to have a student government that accurately represents the best interests of students and has the ability to affect administration policy; this will only happen when our student government has the ability to appoint students representative who will vote according to student needs rather than appointing a student who has no commitment or accountability. This vision is only possible if we empower our representing student body by increasing their ability to communicate with and affect administrative policy, not to appoint representatives who will toy with our money and our education. If we don't act now, the administration will continue to determine our fate without our input.

Vote yes on Measure 5 and help take the first step in the process of increasing our voice and accountability on campus.

Pro: David Harbaugh

For too long the student voice at UCSC has been silenced. We MUST UNITE student voice on campus so that students are better served. When 24 Hour Parking Enforcement and mandatory grades are being discussed, students have to be at the table. Over the years the student voice has been ignored because we are not united. VOTE YES FOR MEASURE 5! This will unite student voice so that we can once again be heard and the administration will not pass ridiculous policies that are of great harm to students.

Currently the SUA officers are elected campus wide. Students choose who will represent their voice. NO members of SVOC are elected. We must assure accountability and full representation.

UNITE OR DIVIDE, YOU DECIDE!

Pro: Leo Grandison

The purpose of students on campus wide committees is to get the opinion of the general student population. Currently, SVOC does not have any infrastructure to get information to or from undergraduate students. SUA is a coalition accountable to students from all the colleges and several large organizations. If they were combined, SVOC would gain accountability to undergraduate students, unifying student voice at UCSC, benefiting all undergraduate students.

Administration has too much influence in the actions of SVOC. Their officers are not elected by students! Students should have control over student appointments. Vote Yes!

Pro: Matt Jones

The SUA is the official student voice on this campus. It is SVOC's responsibility to make sure that this student voice is represented on several different committees on campus and I feel this has not been adequately done, especially in representing students on the issue of 24 hour parking. I feel even though SVOC has made tremendous efforts to increase awareness of these committees, that even more progress could be made if it were incorporated into the SUA to insure accountability, true representation, and a unified student voice.

Con: Benjamin Fields, Mark McCluney, Alex Baello, Daniel Burkhart, Suhagey Sandoval, Eric Crane, Council Member - Student Voice On Committees

Vote No on Measure 5 to Merge Student Union Assembly (SUA) and Student Voice On Committees (SVOC)!!

The Student Voice on Committees (SVOC), having an existing infrastructure dating back to 1974, is dedicated to the appointment of students to campus advisory committees. It is fully functioning and able to immediately perform all of its duties to the undergraduate student body. These duties include making over 100 appointments, continual contact with committee representatives and chairs, as well establishing and maintaining communication, allowing for student accountability.

While the SVOC is committed to increasing communication and collaboration with the Student Union Assembly, the SUA has and continues to make minimal effort to solicit the advice of the SVOC so as to increase communication between these two organizations.

Furthermore, the SVOC was not consulted in any way on the drafting of this ballot measure and questions the legality of its scope, which allows for the dissolution of one student organization into another.

Ensure continued student representation! - VOTE NO ON MEASURE 5

Con: Adam Thompson, Chair - Student Voice On Committees

Vote No on Measure 5 to Merge Student Union Assembly (SUA) and Student Voice On Committees (SVOC)!!

The SVOC has gone through tremendous change this year in order to better ensure student representation on campus advisory committees. The SVOC has been dedicated to the promotion of Student Voice by opening up lines of communication not previously existent. SVOC strives to make sure that every student has a voice and that every student has power to change things as they see fit.

The measure to merge (essentially dissolve) the SVOC will only bring back the challenge of representing Student Voice. The power and diversity of Student Voice will be greatly affected by removing the SVOC as a separate autonomous organization.

Once it has been set that an organization can incorporate another organization without consent or collaboration, what stops it from happening again? Where does any organization have the right to dictate how another shall operate?

It is so important that students are able to spread their voice into as many areas as possible. Having one sole organization that runs on a simple majority basis dictating what is and is not Student Voice is detrimental to the representation of the student body. Is a place where only one voice is heard truly a democracy?

You have power. Be heard! - VOTE NO ON MEASURE 5

Con: Ian Ellis, Porter Senate Chair

SVOC has more than adequately fulfilled its role in student voice. I am vehemently opposed to SUA's attempt to absorb SVOC. SUA claims that absorbing SVOC will serve to further unify the student voice, but I don't see how. The separation of these two organizations has not hindered either in their attempts to ably represent student voice at UCSC. I fail to see how it is that SUA can absorb SVOC, an organization unwilling to be absorbed. Therefore this measure should be an opinion poll.

It is in the best interest of UCSC student body to halt any attempt by SUA to monopolize the student voice with no practical reason. There is no logic behind a merger between these organizations. I strongly encourage all to vote for SVOC to remain a separate and autonomous organization.