

Good Evening ASUCM Senate, Guest, and the Public

I hope all is well. I have a couple things I'd like to report on today. As many of you have seen online I've been sharing the 2020 Undergraduate Experience application with students. I'm happy to report that as of 7:00 p.m. today we had 20+ students apply to sit on the committee. Over the course of Friday and the weekend I will be interviewing students, and I hope to have them chosen by the legislative deadline on Monday so they could be on your agenda. It's a very tight timeline, so I hope to have this accomplished as soon as possible. I'm excited to see that so many students have shown interest in this committee, and I look forward to hosting interviews. My office staff is currently putting together an ASUCM Fact Sheet, so that I can give it to administrators when I meet with them. Feel free to use the fact sheet when it is available.

Last week in my report I stated that I will be reaching out to members of ASUCM to meet with them and discuss the progress of the work they're doing, and how I can help them in their work. I had the opportunity to sit down 1 on 1 with some of the executives, senators, and commissioners. I've come to realize that in my position I will be attending a lot of meetings because other than helping lead this organization I believe it is my duty to make sure everyone feels supported in the work they do. If I reach out to you for a meeting it doesn't mean anything bad. It just means I'd like to hear about the work you're doing, and hopefully connect you with some issues on campus that you might be passionate about. If you want to meet with me I encourage you to reach out to me, and let me know what you need. I do want to talk about a meeting I had with one senator in particular, Senator Rumayor. I'm happy Senator Rumayor reached out to me, and I'm super excited about some of the goals he has for this year. I encourage you work with your colleagues because you will be amazed at the work you can accomplish together. I will let Senator Rumayor talk about his ideas when the opportunity presents itself, but I just like to publicly thank him, and all of you for the work you have been doing. This has been one of the most active Senates I've seen, and it seems like many of you are passionate about specific ideas on campus and I implore you to step outside the box whether it be structural change or student issues.

On Monday I met with a fellow Bobcat, Brittany Oakes, and she had this great idea about getting clothing bins on campus. This idea came from her realizing that she sees a lot of students selling clothes on campus, but how many of those clothes actually get sold? She also told me that only 15% of textiles are reused meaning the other 85% goes to landfill, or other places. She believes this line up with our goal as a University to be a sustainable campus. She wants to get a clothing bin on campus near housing, so students can donate clothes and we can give those clothes to middle or high school students. She has reached out to Vernetta Doty to see what organizations we can partner up with, and I also informed her about the Neighborhood Relations Commission. She has reached out to me to see if could contact Housing about this, and if any of you are interested in this project please let me know. I think it's great that students are reaching

out to ASUCM for support, and I think that this is great initiative to give back to the community of Merced.

This Friday I will be meeting with Susan Mikkelsen from the UC Merced Library to discuss Open Access. I just learned about Open Access last week, and I think it's great that library is taken the initiative to inform students the importance of having Open Access to research articles published from UC Merced professors. You may have seen some of the e-signs outside talking a little about it, but it is pretty much the idea we shouldn't pay for articles published by our professors in scholarly articles. They do have journals that are Open Access, but they tend not be so prestigious and professors tend to deviate away from those type of journals because their research for funding is dependent on what type of journals they published. She seemed really excited about meeting, after I told her I was, and I will report on what came from our meeting next Wednesday.

The Commissions are doing some great work. I'm sure many of you saw the e-mail from Thi, the Commissioner on Sustainability, and I'm really excited for his project "Refill, not landfill." The Commissioner on Leadership has met with Steve, and she has some great plans to make it easier for students to get involved. The Commissioner on Diversity already has his events planned out for the year, and a lot of communities on our campus will at least have two events to bring awareness to issues they face in their respective communities. The Commissioner on Neighborhood Relation has been reaching out to community leaders and they're currently working on building partnerships. They will be reporting to you monthly, so please expect them next month. I just thought I'd do a brief recap n the work they're doing, and reach out to them if they're interested.

Next Wednesday I, along with External Vice President Kuoch-Seng, will be traveling to Oakland for a meeting with Janet Napolitano. We will be meeting her with AS Presidents, and members of UCSA. Our meeting is scheduled for 4-5 pm and then a debrief from 5-6 pm. I will try my best to make to the Senate meeting, if not I will send a proxy to report on behalf.

Finally, like I stated last week I met with a lot of members of ASUCM. After meeting with a specific individual it has been brought to my attention that some of you don't know what I'm doing, or what I do as President. That being said I will be working with Steve on releasing an anonymous evaluation form so I can see how I'm doing as President. This evaluation will only be available to members of ASUCM. I encourage you to be completely honest because I can't be a better leader without your information and your concerns. I will be running analytics to see what I need to work on, and it doesn't get more informative than actual numbers. Please keep a look out, and I ask that you please do it.

I will do my best to relay you the information that I get. The last thing I want to is keep you in the dark, and if you feel that I'm not being informative enough please put in the evaluation form. I also have set the date for my second Coffee with the President, November

10th, 2014 from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm in the Bobcat Lair, and I'm hoping to get more student than my last one where we had 20 students attend. I do hope you find this report to be informative. That is all I have to report for the night, and let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Ivan Flores
ASUCM President