

## **Statement to Academic Senate 9/12/2023**

### **Re: Communication with SAC and RSSCD Administration on transfer related collaborations**

Hello,

My name is Leo Pastrana and I am the SAC University Transfer Center Faculty Coordinator. Thank you for allowing me to bring up my concerns to you all.

This is the second time that I address the Academic Senate regarding similar issues. As I stated previously, in no way whatsoever, am I or the SAC transfer center opposed to any transfer collaborations with other universities. The concerns I am bringing up today relate to the lack of communication and transparency on behalf of our administrators when engaging, coordinating, and planning with partnering institutions.

Last Thursday evening, 9/7, I received word that a meeting had taken place with UCI and our upper-level administrators earlier that day. A decision was made to that UCI was to host a series of events on their campus which were to direct “eligible” SAC students to submitting a UC TAG (transfer admissions guarantee) with a participating UC. The first event is to take place on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. At this point neither I, nor my dean, had been invited nor asked to collaborate in this event. In addition to that, the university transfer center already has a series of planned events to support UC TAG and other initiatives, but this work was not taken into consideration.

As I have stated before, the university transfer center serves as the bridge between these partnerships/initiatives and our student body. It’s important to acknowledge that this position holds a lot of responsibility and as your fellow faculty member, I think it is imperative that we have a faculty voice present during these meetings as I need to consider:

- Marketing and messaging to students, faculty, and staff
- Recruitment
- Logistics
- Reporting and accountability
- Staffing needs (we are a small department) and already are stretched beyond our means

In addition to the above issue, I have also learned that there was a conversation that was had between our leadership and UCI’s in that they would be restructuring out Summer Scholar’s Transfer Institute (SSTI). I do not yet know enough about what this level of restructuring would entail, but again, faculty was not invited to participate.

In the spirit of true partnership, transparency, and collaboration with our administrators, I am asking this body that as we move forward with transfer initiatives, I and any other interested faculty member(s) be included in the conversations regarding the formation of these partnerships. I am requesting that that this body draft a resolution that urges our administration, at the college and district level, to involve faculty experience and expertise in the creation and development of transfer partnerships.

Thank you for your time.

Leo Pastrana