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UCSA Announces "#Let'sTalk" Campaign, Leadership for 2015-16 Academic Year Aim to Address Mental Health, Student Affordability, Comprehensive Services

IRVINE, CA – The **UC Student Association** held its annual UC Student Congress last weekend for 400 attendees from all ten UC campuses. Through conversation and skill building workshops, students learned about many student concerns, ultimately selecting biennial campaigns aimed to implement the dream of an accessible, affordable, and quality UC system.

Undergraduate students voted to address the lack of comprehensive mental health services with a campaign called "#Let'sTalk". Graduate students voted to implement an action agenda instead of a single campaign, including directives to address living costs, relationships with advisors, and unequal access to benefits provided to other students and campus workers, among others.

"Both #Let'sTalk and the grad student agenda reflect widely felt frustration by students that their holistic wellness is ignored. We will be relentless advocates because we know that for students to thrive, they must first be able to survive," said Kevin Sabo, **incoming UCSA President**.

UCSA voted to elect new executive leadership, as well as committee chairs. Executives Include:

- President Kevin Sabo, UC Berkeley, Peace & Conflict Studies Major
- Board of Directors' Chair Guillermo Rogel, UC Santa Cruz, International Politics Major
- Treasurer Rebecca Ora, UC Santa Cruz, Ph.D. Candidate in Film Studies
- Board of Directors' Vice Chair Yanira Pineda, UC Santa Barbara, Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science
- A full list of newly elected leaders is available at <u>ucsa.org/about/student-board/</u>.

When asked to describe **Sabo**'s vision for the coming year, he said, "This year is about defining the next generation of student activists. We will defend the promise of an affordable and quality education as fiercely as previous generations of students defended free speech and student diversity. This is the legacy we leave for future Californians."

In the true spirit of this conference, students also allocated time to make 147 calls to legislators and other UC decision-makers to advocate for UConsent: A UCSA Campaign to End Sexual Assault, Black Lives Matter, faculty diversity, and support for undocumented students.

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About the University of California Student Association

The UC Student Association is the official voice of over 240,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from all ten UC campuses. It is our mission to advocate on behalf of current and future students for the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the UC system.

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