

UNITE: A systemwide student steering committee on campus climate
Application for the 2012-13 academic year
Due March 30, 2012, at 5 pm to unite.sssccc@gmail.com

Description

Students across the University of California's 10 campuses work every day to improve the UC's "campus climate." They work to prevent and respond to hate crimes, bias incidents, and micro-aggressions. They do outreach to underrepresented students in the K-12 and community college systems and open doors to the UC. They provide retention services and support to classmates who are experiencing difficulty in their academics, in their personal and social lives, and with their mental, emotional, and physical well-being. Together, their efforts make the UC a more diverse and welcoming place, where students from all backgrounds are present, seen, heard, and thriving.

Too often, students on each campus do this on their own, without the support of students who are working toward the same goals on other UC campuses.

UNITE will be a space where student leaders working passionately on campus climate issues on each campus can (1) come to one space to share successes, shortcomings, challenges, opportunities, and ideas, and (2) strategize around systemwide improvements to the UC's campus climate policies.

Each campus will send up to four student leaders to UNITE as representatives. Members of UNITE will:

- Participate in monthly conference calls to discuss campus climate.
- Produce a report by the second week of May, each school year, summarizing the UC's campus climate accomplishments, failures, opportunities, and major challenges, as viewed from a student perspective. This report will be sent to the UC Board of Regents, the President and Diversity Coordinator of the University of California, and the division charged with campus climate on each UC campus.
- Hold an annual in-person meeting of all committee members at Student of Color Conference.

Selection Process

Each applicant is to submit a resume and two short essays to unite.sssccc@gmail.com by **March 30, 2012 at 5 pm**. A selection committee, composed of a diverse group of student leaders both inside and outside of student government, will be formed in each region of the state. Applicants from Northern California will be evaluated by the Southern California selection committee, and vice versa. This process is intended to prevent any bias or appearance of bias that may arise in the selection process.

Students will be evaluated on their experience advocating on behalf of students, their knowledge of campus climate issues, and their commitment to improving campus climate throughout the UC. Race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical disability, religion, and immigration status will not be taken into account.

Selections will be made by **April 13, 2012**. The inaugural conference call, chaired by Student Regent Designate Jonathan Stein and UCSA Undergraduate Committee Chair Patrick Manh Le, will be held **April 20, 2012**.

Application Essays

Essays should be no more than 400 words each. They should be 12-point font, single spaced, with 1-inch margins. Essays will be evaluated on content, not English proficiency.

Essay 1: What does the term "campus climate" mean to you? Why is it important to you?

Essay 2: Please identify two climate-related challenges or problems that you have identified on your campus, and explain what you have done to address them.