



UC Santa Barbara
Associated Students

Associated Students
Outstanding BCU Award Team
UCEN 2537, University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106
www.as.ucsb.edu

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Outstanding BCU Award Report

25 Winter

MingJun Zha, Mira Tran, Roz Mirfenderski
OUTSTANDING BCU AWARD TEAM

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Summary

Pursuant to the 75th Senate legislation, A Bill to Reform Honoraria in ASUCSB¹, President Nayali Broadway authorized the formation of the Outstanding BCU Award Team. After public application and internal deliberation with respect to the Award perimeter enumerated in Senate legislation and holistic evaluation in proportion to each applicant BCU's budget and the number of board positions, President Broadway approved the Award Team's recommendation and hereby publicized her intent to nominate Commission on Student Well-being, Trans and Queer Commission and Global Gaucho Commission for Student Well-being, Representation to Marginalized Community and Personal and Professional Development subcategories respectively.

Every single applicant BCU has shown remarkable dedication and contribution toward the undergraduate student community. The team regretted that we couldn't recommend all of them to the Award given the limited spot available. However, we'd like to take this opportunity to express our wholehearted appreciation for all of them.

Throughout the implementation of the Award in its first application in this Winter quarter, the team discovered several areas of improvement, which include publicity and overcrowding in the Student Well-being subcategory. Hence, we have made alterations to our procedures for the Spring quarter Award process.

¹

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aYS60raUbQF2xF7TJpZnXNuEL1P4ByoqIOcp7zn8-wU/edit?tab=t.0>

Student Well-being Subcategory

Contribute to the well-being of the student body through mental health support, social engagement, or resources that contribute to students' physical, emotional, and mental health.

Application Summary of Commission on Student Well-being

Per Quarter Budget Excluding Honoraria:	\$17,660
Total Amount of Positions on Board	15
Total Expenditure for 25 Fall + Summer	\$23,591
Budget Execution Rate	132.67%

Event Summary

1. **Weekly Pilates Classes** – Led by Fitness Coordinator Mia Goodreau, these sessions aimed to promote physical well-being and stress relief. The total cost was **\$1,850**, covering **10 weeks with 30 attendees per session**, resulting in a per-person cost of **\$6.17**.
2. **Mental Health First Aid Training** – Conducted in collaboration with the Public and Mental Health Commission, this program trained **25 students** in mental health first aid. The event had a budget of **\$502.95**, making the cost per person **\$20.12**.
3. **Dinner with a Stranger** – This event, organized by Mental Health Coordinator Fiona Hosmer-Hughes, encouraged students to disconnect from technology, enjoy a **catered Chipotle dinner**, play games, and connect with others in a relaxed setting at the Lagoon Lawn. The cost was **\$800**, with **50 attendees**, resulting in a per-person cost of **\$16.00**.
4. **Pinktober Tabling** – Womxn's Health Coordinator Caitlin Joyce hosted a breast cancer awareness event at The Arbor, offering Spudnuts Donuts while distributing ribbons and information. The event cost **\$250** and had **100 attendees**, making the cost per person **\$2.50**.
5. **Self-Care Fair** – This wellness-centered event encouraged students to participate in activities promoting both mental and physical health. With a budget of **\$1,284.93**, it attracted **175 students**, resulting in a per-person cost of **\$7.34**.
6. **DIY Wellness Kit-Making Event** – This hands-on event allowed students to create personalized wellness kits with self-care essentials. The initiative cost **\$1,022** and was attended by **85 students**, leading to a per-person cost of **\$12.02**.
7. **Outdoor Wellness Market** – Hosted in collaboration with The Isla Vista Food Co-op, this initiative combined mental health awareness with access to fresh, healthy food. The event was **completely free** for students and brought together community organizations, with **25 attendees**.
8. **Scooby-Doo Screening** – In collaboration with Magic Lantern Films, Outreach Coordinator Lily Strange coordinated a **Halloween movie night** with hot cocoa and snacks. The event's **total cost for snacks was \$81.99**, and it attracted **over 200 students**, making the cost per person **\$0.41**.
9. **Inviting Emotions to Tea Workshop** – Co-organized with UCSB ECP, this workshop at the Methodist Community Garden encouraged students to explore how embracing

emotions can contribute to deeper healing. The cost was **\$200**, with **30 attendees**, making the cost per person **\$6.67**.

10. **Petting Zoo** – Co-Chairs Vidya and Le Anh organized this **stress-relief event** at the San Nicolas Lawn, where students could interact with **ducks, chickens, bunnies, goats, turtles, pigs, and guinea pigs** in short shifts before finals. The event cost **\$1,500**, with **200 attendees**, leading to a per-person cost of **\$7.50**.
11. **Finals Essentials Booth** – Vice Chair Gloria Kompel and Mental Health Coordinator Fiona Hughes collaborated with the Public and Mental Health Commission to distribute **study supplies** such as snacks, drinks, stress toys, scantrons, bluebooks, pens, pencils, and erasers to approximately **300 students** at The Arbor. The cost was **\$900**, making the per-person cost **\$3.00**.
12. **Study Jam** – Outreach Coordinator Lily Strange hosted a **study session** at Santa Catalina Hall on **December 3rd**, providing students with a focused environment before finals. The event cost **\$400**, with **60 attendees**, leading to a per-person cost of **\$6.67**.
13. **Publicity Initiatives** – COSWB also conducted **various awareness campaigns**, including a **weekly newsletter** from External Coordinator Ashna Ahmed that highlighted **campus events and resources**, an Instagram series featuring **board members' favorite de-stressing spots on campus**, voter mental health tips for election season, and a guide to the best hiking spots in Santa Barbara. These initiatives had **no direct costs**, but reached an estimated **500 students**.

Award Team's Opinion

The Award Team has found that the AS Commission on Student Well-being (COSWB) has demonstrated a significant and meaningful impact on the well-being of the undergraduate student community, effectively aligning with their mission statement. Their initiatives have contributed to fostering a healthier, more supportive campus environment, addressing key aspects of physical health, mental well-being, stress management, and community connection.

Through a comprehensive and student-centered approach, COSWB has provided accessible wellness resources, educational opportunities, and interactive experiences that promote both individual self-care and collective well-being. Their ability to create spaces for students to engage, reflect, and support one another has helped mitigate common stressors associated with academic life. By offering both preventative and responsive wellness programming, they have not only encouraged healthier lifestyles but also empowered students with the tools to sustain their well-being beyond their time on campus.

Moreover, COSWB's strategic outreach and engagement efforts have amplified their impact, ensuring that their initiatives reach a broad and diverse segment of the undergraduate population. Their proactive efforts in wellness advocacy, mental health awareness, and holistic well-being have reinforced a culture of care within the student community. Their ability to effectively utilize resources and exceed expectations in program execution further highlights their dedication to enhancing student wellness at UCSB.

Application Summary of Applicant B

Per Quarter Budget Excluding Honoraria:	\$7787
Total Amount of Positions on Board	22
Total Expenditure for 25 Fall + Summer	\$3100
Budget Execution Rate	39.81%

Event Summary

1. **APPLICANT B Kickoff Meeting** – The largest meeting of the year, introducing students to APPLICANT B's mission, officer board, and ways to get involved in environmental activism. The total cost was **\$1,800**, with approximately **150 attendees**, resulting in a per-person cost of **\$12.00**.
2. **Stop Sable Initiative** – A campaign opposing ExxonMobil's transfer of its lease to Sable Offshore, which would allow oil drilling off the coast. The initiative involved public comments, student awareness, and activism efforts. The estimated cost was **\$500**, covering outreach materials and advocacy efforts, with around **100 attendees**, making the cost per person **\$5.00**.
3. **Volunteering Events and Collaborations** – APPLICANT B hosted several volunteer activities in collaboration with IVRPD, IVCC, and DPW, engaging students in hands-on environmental projects. The estimated cost was **\$300**, mainly for event supplies, with approximately **75 attendees**, resulting in a per-person cost of **\$4.00**.
4. **Environmental Justice Herbalism Night** – This event, hosted by APPLICANT B's Environmental Justice Chairs, educated students on herbalist techniques and sustainable remedies. Participants created their own locally sourced tea blends. The total cost was **\$250**, with **50 attendees**, making the per-person cost **\$5.00**.
5. **Education Trip to the Goleta Farmer's Market** – A sustainability-focused event where students learned how to use Santa Barbara's public bus system before visiting the Goleta Farmer's Market. Each attendee received a \$5 market token to spend. The total cost was **\$100**, and **20 students participated**, making the per-person cost **\$5.00**.
6. **Environmental Justice Book Giveaway** – An Instagram-based giveaway promoting herbalism and ethnobotany. APPLICANT B distributed seven books to engage students with sustainability-related literature. The total cost was **\$150**, and **35 students** participated, leading to a per-person cost of **\$4.29**.

Award Team's Opinion

The Award Team recognizes the meaningful impact of Applicant B's events, which successfully engaged students in environmental advocacy, sustainability education, and hands-on volunteer opportunities. The strong turnout and enthusiasm for these initiatives highlight the organization's ability to create valuable and relevant programming that aligns with student interests.

While Applicant B has demonstrated thoughtful financial management, there is an opportunity for further improvement in budget execution. With a budget execution rate of

39.81%, the organization has effectively maintained financial efficiency. However, given that multiple events reached full capacity quickly, there is potential to explore ways to expand event accessibility and accommodate greater student participation. Optimizing the use of available funds could help enhance the overall reach and inclusivity of future programming.

The Award Team encourages Applicant B to consider strategies for scaling successful events and adapting budget allocation to meet high student demand while maintaining financial sustainability. By refining these aspects, future initiatives can continue to build on their strong foundation, ensuring even greater engagement and impact within the undergraduate community.

Application Summary of Applicant C

Per Quarter Budget Excluding Honoraria:	\$6000
Total Amount of Positions on Board	31
Total Expenditure for 25 Fall + Summer	\$33700
Budget Execution Rate	561.67%

Event Summary

1. **Safety and Escort Services** – Applicant C offers nighttime safety escorts, ensuring students and community members have a reliable option for secure travel through campus and surrounding areas. The total cost for this program is **\$19,000 per quarter**, serving an average of **500 students per shift** in their weekly Friday and Saturday shifts (excluding finals week), resulting in a per-person cost of **\$2.11**.
2. **Community Support and Outreach** – Through ongoing community engagement, Applicant C volunteers provide safety awareness resources, guidance, and emergency assistance. The initiative includes **honoraria for volunteers**, with a budget of **\$13,200 per quarter**, supporting a team of trained individuals dedicated to maintaining a safe campus environment.
3. **Overdose Prevention Program** – Applicant C distributes overdose prevention materials, including Naloxone kits, harm reduction information, and training resources, to help mitigate risks and raise awareness about substance safety. The initiative is funded with **\$1,500 per quarter** to ensure students have access to these life-saving resources.

Award Team's Opinion

While the Award Team deeply appreciates and recognizes Applicant C's invaluable contributions to the undergraduate student community, there are structural considerations regarding its eligibility for the Outstanding BCU Award. Applicant C's work has played a crucial role in enhancing student safety and well-being, demonstrating a profound commitment to serving and supporting the campus. However, as part of an executive office, Applicant C operates within a different framework than the Boards, Commissions, and Units (BCUs) that the Award is specifically designed to honor.

The Award Team acknowledges the dedication, hard work, and positive impact that Applicant C has made through its initiatives. Its services have been instrumental in fostering a safer and more supportive environment for students. While its role as part of an executive office places it outside the intended scope of this Award, the team sincerely values its contributions and encourages recognition through alternative avenues that better reflect its structural role within student government. Applicant C's efforts are truly commendable, and its impact on the undergraduate student body is deeply appreciated.

Professional and Academic Development Subcategory

Provides valuable opportunities for professional growth, leadership development, or academic support, enabling students to enhance their skills, knowledge, and career readiness.

Application Summary of Global Gaucho Commission

Per Quarter Budget Excluding Honoraria:	\$20,318
Total Amount of Positions on Board	12
Total Expenditure for 25 Fall + Summer	\$20,007
Budget Execution Rate	98.46%

Event Summary

1. **Beyond Graduation Panel** – This panel featured a diverse group of experts—a senior HR leader, an accounting professional, a PhD student, and the OISS Director—who offered guidance on career paths, further studies, and personal growth after graduation. The event was held in a rented ILP space at a cost of **\$500**, and it attracted fewer than 20 students; assuming **20 attendees**, the per-person cost is approximately **\$25**.
2. **Global Mentorship Program** – Designed to foster a supportive academic and social network, this initiative connects new students with experienced peers through partnerships with UCSB Health and Wellness and OISS. With a total expenditure of around **\$2,000** for mentor honoraria, event supplies, and training room rentals, and involving about 10 mentor-mentee pairs, **the per-person cost comes to roughly \$200**.
3. **Welcome Package** – Distributed during EAP’s welcoming events and tabling sessions, these packages included pamphlets highlighting key academic support resources like Go Gaucho, CLAS, and the Writing Center to help new international students navigate their academic journey. Producing 500 packages at a total cost of about **\$6,000** (roughly \$12 per package) and reaching approximately **450 new students** during Fall orientation, the per-student cost is around **\$13.33**.
4. **Funding of Supernova** – This initiative provided event organizers with hands-on experience in planning and hosting events while showcasing student talents through a singing contest. With a rental fee of **\$5,235.45**, the event not only had over 30 contestants (with 11 finalists) but also attracted more than **300 audience members**. Calculating the cost based on the audience size, the **per-person cost comes to approximately \$17.45**.
5. **Mid-term and Final Boost Station** – Aimed at alleviating exam stress, this initiative supplied essential exam materials and food. The Midterm Breakfast Station cost **\$903.96** and was visited by about 180 students (around **\$5.02 per person**), while the Final Boost Station cost **\$369.59** and was attended by about 30 students (approximately **\$12.32 per person**).
6. **Thanksgiving Voucher** – This program provided Kaiju meal vouchers to ensure that 220 students had access to a warm meal during the holiday season when dining halls close, thereby fostering a sense of belonging and reducing stress related to basic needs. With a total cost of **\$5,000**, the per-student cost is approximately **\$22.73**.

Award Team's Opinion

GGC has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to enhancing the overall student experience through innovative and impactful initiatives. Their comprehensive approach

addresses academic, personal, and professional development, ensuring that students are well-prepared for life beyond the university. By integrating support services, mentorship opportunities, and community-building activities, GGC has created an environment where students can thrive and grow.

In addition to their forward-thinking strategies, GGC has exhibited outstanding fiscal responsibility and operational efficiency. With a remarkable budget execution rate of 98.46%, they maximize every dollar, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to deliver high-quality programs. This level of financial stewardship is a testament to their strategic planning and meticulous management, resulting in initiatives that consistently provide significant value to the student body.

Furthermore, GGC's commitment to fostering a vibrant campus culture is evident in their ability to engage students and build lasting community connections. Their efforts not only enhance academic experience but also empower students to develop the skills and networks necessary for future success. For these reasons, we believe that GGC is exceptionally deserving of this award, as they embody excellence in both innovation and execution.

Representation to the marginalized communities Subcategory

Serving, advocating for, and representing marginalized communities at AS and school levels to bridge the gap between communities and foster an inclusive campus culture.

Application Summary of Trans and Queer Commission

Per Quarter Budget Excluding Honoraria:	\$30,845
Total Amount of Positions on Board	18
Total Expenditure for 25 Fall + Summer	\$5449.35
Budget Execution Rate	17.67%

Event Summary

1. **Sabrina Wu Comedy Night** – TQCO’s biggest event of the Fall quarter featured nonbinary actor and comedian Sabrina Wu from *Abbott Elementary* and *Joyride*. The total cost was **\$15,000** (jointly funded by TQC, ASPB, and AS SCORE with \$5,000 each), with about **85 attendees**, resulting in a per-person cost of **\$176.47**.
2. **Let’s Talk Tea – Aro/Ace Discussion Space** – This gathering provided a welcoming space for aromantic and asexual students to connect, co-hosted with the RCSGD. The total cost was **\$129.35**, attended by around **15** participants, yielding a per-person cost of **\$8.62**.
3. **Lesbian Lounge Cat Cafe** – Part of the Lesbian Lounge program, this cat cafe/therapy event in Downtown Santa Barbara provided an intimate environment for socializing and stress relief. The total cost of **\$170** supported **12** attendees, creating a per-person cost of **\$14.17**.
4. **Queer Trivia at Woodstock** – An off-campus collaboration with a local pizzeria, this event tested knowledge of LGBTQ+ history and pop culture in a fun setting. The total cost was **\$150** for about **25** attendees, resulting in a per-person cost of **\$6.00**.
5. **QT Disabilities Advocacy Coordinator** – Established in partnership with the AS Senate, this position addresses the intersection of queer identities and disability to ensure accessibility and inclusion at TQCO events. There was **no direct cost** for launching the role, resulting in **\$0** per-person cost.
6. **Other Initiatives** – TQCO also hosted or sponsored various smaller-scale events, including workshops on interpersonal violence in WLW relationships, drag bingo sponsorship, volunteer gardening, post-election safe spaces, birthday card decorating for queer incarcerated individuals, and crafting sessions. Costs and per-person details for these initiatives were **not specified**, though they further underscore TQCO’s commitment to creating inclusive and community-focused programming.

Award Team's Opinion

The Trans and Queer Commission (TQCO) is a champion for marginalized communities, advocating for equitable representation at both the AS and school levels. Their programming—from inclusive events to strategic partnerships—has effectively bridged community gaps and fostered an environment where every student feels seen and supported.

By centering the voices of queer, trans, and intersectional communities, TQCO has created spaces for meaningful dialogue and ensured that underrepresented experiences are not overlooked. Their initiatives, such as accessibility-focused roles and targeted events, exemplify a commitment to building an inclusive campus culture that truly represents its diverse student body.

Conflict of Interest and Excusals

MingJun Zha voluntarily excused himself from the deliberation for the Professional and Personal Development subcategory due to having served on the board of the Global Gaucho Commission, which applied for the subcategory.

Areas of Improvement for the Award

Currently, we have an uneven distribution of applicants across the three award subcategories: the Student Well-Being category is oversubscribed with three candidates, whereas the other two categories each have only one candidate. In order to encourage wider participation and achieve a more balanced representation of all subcategories, we plan to intensify our outreach efforts. These steps include seeking support from AS staff advisors, placing promotional posters in high-traffic AS common areas, and exploring the possibility of allowing one BCU to apply under multiple award categories. By implementing these strategies, we hope to increase awareness, motivate more groups to submit their projects, and ultimately ensure that the awards recognize a diverse range of initiatives.