

Victor Dane - Activities Personal Statement

I, Victor Dane, accept the nomination for the position of the 2011-2012 Activities Coordinator. This is my first year in UC Santa Cruz, and being a sophomore transfer, it has been a completely different experience compared to one who started off as a freshman. But, I was still able to have a great experience, a lot due to the FSA community. By being a member, I was able to explore new activities that I have never experienced before. I double aspected in both Kasama and PDT this past year, and each provided unique experiences that I never had in any of the previous Filipino organizations I have been part of.

I am applying for the Activities Coordinator position because I want to bring some new ideas to the FSA Community both socially and culturally. Comparing my past year with UCSC's FSA to my freshman year with UNLV's FASA made me realize that they lacked all aspects of the Filipino culture. They only focused on the social aspect of the club, and as important as a sense of community and friendship is, they were completely forgetting the objective of why the club was created for. One thing I really admire about the FSA here is the balance they provide between the social and cultural aspects of the club. That is why I want to be a bigger part of the community by being the Activities Coordinator, which was originally known as the Social and Cultural Chair.

I understand that the main objectives of the Activities Coordinator position is organizing Friendship Games, the Multi-Cultural Festival and overlooking FSA Grad. But, they are also responsible to host events for Filipino Awareness Month which is October, and also the same month as Friendship Games. Since school would start late September, I would definitely want to host an event to bring together all potential, new, and past members, while celebrating our Filipino heritage before Friendship Games. In the past, I was able to organize an event called Filipino Fear Factor, where participants had to endure Filipino related challenges (balut eating, tinikling obstacle courses, etc). It would easily provide an ice breaker between all members. Activities is also responsible for Community Service, which sadly we haven't had too much experience in the past year. Ideas that I had was to reach out to more of the various Filipino communities, especially since there is a more adult based Filipino Organization in Capitola, where we can spend time with other filipin@s, and maybe at the same time get funding. I definitely want to reach out to more local organizations (ex: SJSU and SFSU), and to have joint activities to build a more stronger connection between all NOR-CAL Filipino organizations.

I have had a lot of experience when it comes to student organizing. I established the first Filipino Club in my school during my senior year and it is still growing today. Throughout high school I was president over the third largest Key Club in all of California, Nevada and Hawaii, where I was responsible for over 250 members, which is the main concern for those that have to head Friendship Games. I was also a senior representative for my entire senior class in high school. In my college career in student organizing I was the Sergeant at Arms for my FASA, where my job was to keep order at all meeting and and events. Through all my leadership positions through the past couple of years, I have been able to organize events, work with multiple organizations, and represented all the groups I have been associated with.