

Ray Licardo - Internal Co-Chair Personal Statement

As I waited to get onto the bus for ASF 12 as a high school senior, I never expected myself to be a part of a community where I would be able to appreciate my Filipino roots and build bonds between people who share similar struggles as me. My experience being a participant and the connections that I made on ASF 12 helped determine my decision to further my acceptance to UCSC. I wanted to be a part of something I knew was going to make my college experience worthwhile.

After being a participant on ASF, I sought to be an active member of FSA by attending many events thrown by the community, joined KAMP, found my second family within Haluan, and attempted to volunteer for anything and everything related to FSA. With the support from my friends and the upperclassmen involved in the community, I was inspired to run for Webmaster (now known as Media Relations) as a second year and was elected. Keeping close association with FSA, I was elected Haluan Co-coordinator for my third year, which in turn led to my involvement in PCC Core.

Leadership is defined as one's ability to get others to willingly follow. I think that in any given situation leaders can be found and nurtured and I believe that I possess the following traits.

A leader must be disciplined and know how to work towards the goals and visions of the whole group. They should know how to communicate their vision, articulate their vision, passionately own their vision because passion is contagious. A leader must have the ability to listen to new ideas, even if it doesn't conform to tradition and the conservative ways of thinking. Magnanimity means to give credit when it is due and a magnanimous leader ensures that everyone is recognized. Most importantly, a leader is assertive, not aggressive and clearly states what one expects so there are no misunderstandings.

Having co-coordinated Haluan this year has given me the opportunity to lead a group of talented students, each with their own artistic personalities and ideas. I was able to plan Haluan events and mixers, network with other groups on and off campus, better familiarized and worked closely with SOAR advisors and processes, and most importantly learned how to stay humble throughout my term as coordinator.

I understand that the dynamics of the community and leadership of FSA change every year. If elected this position, I would like to continue to help focus the goals of FSA to spread awareness about Filipino culture and empowerment throughout campus. As an ethnic organization, we need to believe in ourselves believe that we do have a voice within the greater UCSC campus. Since some feel silenced, I would like to help bring light to campus racial climate issues and promote discussions amongst our community on how we can better the environment here where others can feel comfortable and more confident as a student of color here at UCSC.

Before promoting connections with other groups, I plan on first working on building good chemistry within FSA core and fostering a space where everyone is comfortable to articulate their ideas and goals. Once the group feels that they have the support from every single member, work can be more efficient and we will be able to focus on our goals. As a co-chair, I also plan on emphasizing collaboration between aspects, non-performing and performing, so that the greater FSA community can feel that they belong in the whole community and not just in a certain aspect. Lastly, I want to continue to bring excitement and breed inspiration within core to help keep them motivated throughout the year. Without the motivation and enthusiasm, it will be hard for FSA as a collective to articulate and stand by our purpose as FSA.

My involvement within the FSA community and constant activity is because I want to help FSA fulfill and exceed the goals of our current mission statement. I have seen what we can

do and I see the potential in our community to become more present on campus next year. I know that I can share my abilities as a leader to help support and have the responsibility of promoting a greater understanding, appreciation, and importance of the Filipin@/Filipin@ American community here at UCSC to the rest of the campus. As a strong devotee of FSA, I will always be here to assist the community and I take pride in being part of a it.