

Hello to my fellow APC members!

To introduce myself, my name is Kylie Gutierrez, and I am running for APC secretary. I am currently the Program Coordinator at SFSU's Basic Needs Department, where I provide direct case management to students dealing with financial, housing, and food emergencies. Alongside this, I supervise a student team, host workshops, frequently collaborate with departments and faculty members, and collaborate on our department's newsletter. I, similarly to you all, work on the front-line serving students daily. As a member of a department that is meant to be rooted in caring for our students' basic needs, I want to extend that same compassion and direct action to our staff members. Without access to transportation stipends and accessible raises we are unable to support one another in the way we aim to serve our students. Many of us are juggling similar challenges concerning financial stability, rising food costs, housing costs, and general cost of living troubles.

Why should we, as staff members of a university system that relies on our work, sit idly by and wait for a mediocre benefits package and slim chance of a salary increase, especially now that all the presidents from the CSU system have just been granted a 15% annual raise? Why are staff and faculty the only groups on this campus affected by the consequences of the budget deficit?

To address these issues, we need a strong organized front, a strong union. A union that defends our collective and shared interest as front line workers. In my candidacy I believe it is fundamental to our well being to be organized as a union body, so that we can...

1. **Fight for a cost of living adjustment** – We live in some of the most expensive cities, in a state with the highest GDP. Why shouldn't we harness our collective power as front-line workers to organize and fight for a decent contract that addresses our economic needs?
2. **Achieve campus unity** – SFSU has 7 unions on our campus, across the whole CSU system we have 15 in total. Imagine the power that we as workers of these institutions would have if our unions worked together for our collective betterment. One out, all out!
3. **Labor Solidarity Action** – An injury to one is an injury to all. Whether it be our immigrant communities here in the bay, union siblings in Minneapolis who are fighting to defend immigrants from ICE terror, or our other oppressed communities our union should not just stand in solidarity but demonstrate in solidarity.
4. **Visibility and benefits to commuter staff** – The CSU's at large are known as commuter schools for students because of the high cost of living in these areas – the high cost of living also affects us as commuters. We should be able to access free public transportation through our staff ID to help manage commuting costs.

As essential workers of the CSU system, we shouldn't just receive occasional handouts when administration feels inclined. We deserve a fair and equitable salary and benefits package that not only meets our basic needs but also allows us to thrive both on and off campus. I have both the passion and the experience to efficiently engage in this role - I hope you all will vote for me for APC secretary!

***Picket lines mean don't cross!***