

ASUC | Election 2015

Sophomore endorsed by MEMSSA to run for senate

By Melissa Wen | Senior Staff
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UC Berkeley sophomore Sumayyah Din announced Sunday night that she will run for senate in this spring's ASUC elections as an independent candidate.

Although not affiliated with a party, Din is endorsed by the campus's Middle Eastern Muslim Sikh and South Asian Coalition, or MEMSSA. Her platforms address issues of campus climate and police reform, in addition to a proposal to restart an ASUC lecture note service.

Last year, MEMSSA endorsed Henna Kaushal and current independent senator Marium Navid, who ran as a team. Navid is now running for external affairs vice president with CalSERVE. In 2013, the coalition backed Taliah Mirmalek and Naweed Mohabbat, the latter of whom won his independent senate campaign and then ran for president with CalSERVE.

Din worked as communications director in Mohabbat's office during her freshman year. This year, she has worked with various organizing efforts, including a campaign to pass Proposition 47, which passed in November

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PROTEST

Oregon Park inhabitants accuse board of negligence

By Natchapol Praditpatchara
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A group of senior residents protested the mismanagement and negligence of their apartment complex by its board of directors Saturday afternoon in West Berkeley.

About 20 residents of the Oregon Park Senior Apartments, located at 1425 Oregon St., started gathering about 1:30 p.m. in front of the apartment complex. Armed with numerous signs, they marched around the neighborhood before marching back to the complex to conclude a 30-minute protest.

The complex comprises several apartment buildings and is home to more than 60 low-income seniors. The apartments are governed by an annually elected board of directors, which comprises seven residents.

The protesters accused the current directors of abuse of power, negligence of duty and failure to comply with the complex's bylaws, according to resident Juanita Edington.

Edington said the main objective of the protest was to "pressure the board to organize an election" later this month, which some residents worry might not happen. Edington added that utility bills have gone unpaid since the new directors took over last year, and the complex's bank account has been frozen because of signator

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STATE GOVERNMENT

University-owned properties in Berkeley

1 1608 Fourth St.

2 2151 Berkeley Way

3 2483 Hearst Ave.

4 2440 Bancroft Way

5 2436 Bancroft Way

6 255 Panoramic Way

7 2481 Hearst Ave.

Source: City of Berkeley

Sabrina Werts/Senior Staff

Not exempt from state investigation

Audit to investigate losses in tax revenue as result of CSU, UC property purchases

By Sahil Chinoy | Staff
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At a meeting Wednesday, a state legislative committee approved an audit to investigate losses in tax revenue for local governments from property acquisitions by CSU and UC campuses.

The audit, which will examine the impact of the loss of property tax revenue on local fire departments, was approved by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to begin in July. It will evaluate four CSU and three UC campuses over a period of about seven months, at a cost of about \$486,200.

The legislators who proposed

the audit recommended that the state auditor investigate UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, UC Merced, CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Stanislaus, San Diego State University and San Jose State University.

As state institutions of higher education, the CSU and UC systems are exempt from property taxes, which support local services such as police and fire departments as well as city infrastructure. When one of these campuses expands by acquiring previously private property, the local government no longer collects taxes on that property — which could decrease funding for emergency fire services, even as the student population demanding those services grows.

To investigate the seven campuses, the audit will identify all property purchased since 2010 and, if the property was previously private, determine the estimated loss in tax revenue. It will also ascertain the budgetary allocations for the provision of fire

and emergency medical services at those seven campuses and their surrounding communities.

At the meeting, Steve Juarez, UC Office of the President director of state governmental relations, said that among the 10 UC campuses, a variety of relationships exist between the campus and the local fire services. UC Davis, for example, has its own fire department, while other campuses share responsibility with the local fire department or provide financial support.

"The estimated loss of revenues is peanuts, frankly, as compared to economic contribution of campuses in the region," said Karen Zamarripa, the CSU assistant vice chancellor for advocacy and state relations, at the meeting.

City Councilmember Jesse Arreguin acknowledged that UC Berkeley is a "major economic engine" but maintained that by acquiring private property in the city, the "university is not paying its fair share."

"(The UC system's) real estate speculation is taking money away from communities that the buildings are in," Arreguin said.

In 2005, the city and campus settled a lawsuit over UC Berkeley's 2020 Long Range Development Plan, in which the campus agreed to allocate \$1.2 million per year — adjusted 3 percent each year for cost of living — to the city for sewer infrastructure, fire services, neighborhood improvements and joint transportation efforts.

But to Carroll Wills, the communications director for California Professional Firefighters, which supports the audit, Berkeley is still "a particularly difficult situation" because of the large proportion of the city's area owned by the campus.

"Our concern is that moving resources from local entities could ultimately result in a diminishment in service capability," Wills said. ■

Sahil Chinoy is the lead higher education reporter.

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Election council hears complaints about candidates

Meeting focuses on possible violations regarding electronic campaigning bylaws

By Kate Wolfe | Staff
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At an ASUC Elections Council meeting Friday, members of the council discussed complaints brought against two Student Action executive candidates running in the upcoming election.

The council discussed possible bylaw violations regarding electronic campaigning and use of ASUC resources by external affairs vice presidential candidate Vinay Ramesh and presidential candidate Milad Razavi.

The issue of electronic campaigning was brought under scrutiny Wednesday after Ramesh, a current Student Action senator, allegedly changed his profile picture on Facebook to a photo promoting his own candidacy for external affairs vice president

during an ASUC Senate meeting.

The action is considered campaigning, which is prohibited while "using ASUC authority, facilities, funds, or resources," according to the ASUC bylaws. Anna Head Alumnae Hall, where senate meetings are held, is considered an ASUC space.

During the meeting, Ramesh and his campaign manager, Monsoon Pabrai, said Pabrai had uploaded the photo on Ramesh's profile from a remote location that was not considered an ASUC space and Ramesh was looking at the photo during the meeting because there had been an issue with its original posting.

According to ASUC Attorney General Natalja Karniouchina, the evidence provided was a photograph that depicts Ramesh looking at his promotional photo on Facebook during the



ALVIN WU/STAFF
Student Action Senator Paul Lee, left, and two staff members attend the ASUC Elections Council meeting to address alleged campaign bylaw violations.

senate meeting. She said it is unclear but it looks like campaigning.

In a point of clarification, the council voted on what it deemed to constitute electronic campaigning,

particularly on a Facebook platform. By two unanimous votes, the council declared that "liking" posts on Facebook is not campaigning,

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JESS EWALD/COURTESY

MUSIC

Night Terrors of 1927

Night Terrors Of 1927 — the angsty indie-pop project of Jarrod Gorbel and Blake Sennett — has just released its bold debut album. Read our interview with the band online.



HERBERT MIGDOLL/COURTESY

DANCE

Joffrey Ballet

Check out our interview with Ashley Wheeler, the artistic director of the renowned dance company Joffrey Ballet, which will be performing at Zellerbach Hall this month.



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