UC San Diego Plans to Resume Triple Housing This Fall

By Tianrui Huang, hoousing staff writer

UC San Diego will be one of 45 college campuses participating in the #CaliforniansForAll College Corps starting Fall 2022. The program offers up to 6,500 students $10,000 towards their education along with academic credit in exchange for 40 hours of community service.

On Jan. 18, 2022, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced the #CaliforniansForAll College Corps program with the goal of assisting students in affording higher education. The part-time community service work given to the selected students will center around supporting California higher education. Newsom announced the #CaliforniansForAll College Corps program as being part of Governor Newsom’s response to nearly four million Californians owing $147 billion collectively in student debt. Student debt is a nationwide issue with more than 45 million students taking out loans across the country, with $1.7 trillion owed in total. Students from higher-income families have an advantage in being able to go to college and in completing a bachelor’s degree or higher.

California Chief Service Officer and Head of California Volunteers Josh Fryday declared the initiative’s relief, K-12 education, and climate action. UCSD was one of the seven universities in the University of California system selected to participate.

UCSD To Participate in $10K Community Service Initiative

By Kalohelani Danbara

UC San Diego will be one of 45 college campuses participating in the #CaliforniansForAll College Corps starting Fall 2022. The program offers up to 6,500 students $10,000 towards their education along with academic credit in exchange for 40 hours of community service.

On Jan. 18, 2022, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced the #CaliforniansForAll College Corps program with the goal of assisting students in affording higher education. The part-time community service work given to the selected students will center around supporting California communities in need, and with regard to COVID-19.
While the library hopes to return to regular hours soon, it is still awaiting guidance from campus administration. Library processes may also be slower than usual, as the library is short-staffed due to COVID-19 cases among library staff.

Lastly, after speaking with two campus public health experts, A.S. President Manu Agni confirmed that UC San Diego was planning to return to in-person learning, events and Associated Activities after Jan. 31. Agni also elaborated that although professors and lecturers could not be mandated to podcast, Agni was working with Academic Affairs to strongly encourage more professors and lecturers to podcast lectures.

**Week 4**

The Week 4 meeting on Jan. 26 was cancelled. According to A.S. Interim Executive Assistant Roy Velasquez, there were no urgent issues to pass on the docket, and many students felt that canceling the meeting would ease their transition to in-person learning.

A.S. Council meetings take place at 6 p.m. every Wednesday and are open to students. Students can participate in these meetings by joining their Zoom link or tuning in on Facebook Live.

**HOUSING**

Despite some criticisms, students such as LouAnne, a Sixth College junior residential assistant on campus, have praised triple occupancy housing as an acceptable option.

"Last year, there was a housing crisis," LouAnne said. "Outside housing is really expensive, so a triple room was the best alternative in my freshman year — also because of the campus vibe, but these were cut out because of the COVID. So basically, I just spent one quarter and a half there."

Last year the average rent around University City surged to $2,745 in the second quarter, while on-campus housing costs ranged from $1110 to $1400 per month.

"The triple housing was an OK experience," LouAnne continued. "When I walked in, it [was] always cramped. I slept on the upper bed. Since there was basically no fence some people fell from bed, and my head always hit the ceiling." LouAnne said, "However it’s still an opportunity to bond people together, a positive way to be surrounded by people."

Student enrollment is expected to continue rising, with Chancellor Pradeep Khosla saying UCSD may reach the 50,000 mark within 10 years. On-campus housing policies for the next incoming year will still depend on an adaptive strategy of the Return to Learn program and are subject to changes as a result of the ongoing pandemic.
program a “monumental proposal to the next generation of Californians,” stating that “if you step up to serve your community, we’ll help you pay for college.”

In a tweet, UC President Michael V. Drake touted the benefits of the UC system’s involvement in the program.

“@UofCalifornia is proud to partner with @CAGovernor Newsom and fellow CA colleges & universities on the #CaliforniansForAll College Corps program. This initiative is a reflection of our state’s strong commitment to access, affordability, and public service.”

In an email to The UCSD Guardian, Assistant Director of University Communications Erika Johnson elaborated on what this program will look like for UCSD students in the upcoming year.

“Those who complete a year of service (450 hours) will receive a $7,000 stipend plus a $3,000 education award, academic credit, real-world job experience, and access to training and professional development,” Johnson said. UCSD will select up to 225 students, including Cal Grant B eligible undocumented students, to participate in this program. The school also plans to recruit College Corps Fellows to assist elementary, middle school, and high school students affected by pandemic learning loss by working with K-12 host schools colleges and universities.

UCSD anticipates providing students with an application by late March 2022 and plans to update students with more information in the upcoming weeks.

Starting in August 2022, the program’s official implementation will begin with the first cohort of students participating through July 2024 in a two-year program. If the initiative proves successful, Governor Newsom hopes to expand the program to include more California students.
American Film Industry Driven by Profit and Consumption

BY MARCELLA BARNEZEDO Staff Writer

It’s no secret that our society is highly motivated by achieving the largest profit. But what happens when this driving desire begins to upset creativity? In the world of American movies, film, and television, large corporations are now dominating and controlling the output of media dispersed to the masses. The issue with placing money-driven institutions at the head of the American film industry is the unfortunate creation of often meaningless entertainment. Movies and television shows are simply viewed as monetary investments and sacrifice quality in favor of selling a wider quantity.

While the American film industry wasn’t always so capitalist, it’s important to understand when and how the shift away from innovation and artistry took place. Prior to the 1900s, American films were essentially unrestricted by laws. The industry was mainly composed of independent filmmakers who required only the proper funds and tools to carry out their visionary projects. However, in 1908, Thomas A. Edison pushed for the formation of the Motion Picture Patents Company (also known as The Movie Trust, Edison Trust, or The Trust) in order to monopolize the American film industry by removing independent filmmakers and distributors by generating unreasonable limitations. For example, The Trust created a contract with the Eastman Kodak Company, the largest manufacturer of film stock at the time, to regulate the distribution of film and guarantee that it was only given to licensed members of the company. In response to this, independent filmmakers and producers abandoned the east coast — which was home to The Trust — and moved to Hollywood, California, contributing to the origin of America’s present-day film capital.

Eventually, The Trust was terminated under court order in 1917. Though, a similar pattern of domination began to appear in Hollywood as major film studios like Universal Pictures, Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros. Pictures, Walt Disney Pictures, and Columbia Pictures grew in size. They became known as the “Big Five” and, as of September 2021, own 81% of the movie market. These studios are subsequently responsible for the industrialization of film through large-budget, mass-produced, generic entertainment that is carefully curated to appeal to as many audiences as possible. By pandering to the masses, these film studios can raise their profits and continue the cycle of investing in meaningless material with high rewards.

For instance, Walt Disney Pictures, among other studies, has recently become attached to the idea of recreating pre-existing “classic” Disney films in live-action format. However, films like “The Lion King” that offer nothing substantially new or demonstrate anything particularly creative (with the exception of improved animation and image rendering that wasn’t available during the time of the original movie) contribute almost no artistic value since they are being used as money-making tools. Disney set aside around $180 million, on average, for these live-action remakes, drawing on a wide audience by appealing to their main market audience as well as adults who grew up watching the older Disney films. The studio also casts popular and well-known actors to increase their marketability.

Crown Media Holdings is not classified as one of the Big Five, but they are responsible for the production of Hallmark movies, notoriously known for their repetitive Christmas movies that feature almost identical plots, tropes, and unoriginal style. The company sets small budgets for these films, under $2 million on average, and makes a considerable profit. From Christmas films alone, Hallmark makes an annual ad revenue of $350 million while contributing nothing particularly new or unique to the global film industry itself.

In contrast to American films, Soviet films are completely free from the bounds of commercialization. Independent filmmakers have the unrestricted ability to revolutionize film and create meaningful art in the absence of an unrelenting desire to profit off of their work. Intellectual filmmakers like Lev Kuleshov and Dziga Vertov. George Lucas, creator of the infamous Star Wars series, said himself that freedom from commerce aids in technical innovation, when referencing the ingenuity of Soviet filmmakers. If the American film industry were to adopt a similar mindset of placing artistry above money, perhaps they too could contribute to the global world of film in a more purposeful manner. Independently produced films created by American film directors like Wes Anderson, the Coen Brothers, Greta Gerwig, or Richard Linklater, are all prime examples of the artistic potential the American film industry holds. Each film presents its own unique cinematography, soundtrack, visuals, and overall feel that exudes creativity and thoughtfulness. Independent films aren’t compromised by the director’s desire to produce meaningful art which — at the risk of sounding slightly pretentious — is what films should be.
Attendance Should Not Be Required

By Benjamin Liou
Staff Writer

From the time, money, and compromises students make, their motivation to learn should be evident. However, even for a highly motivated student, it is not always the case that attending everything is the best. The tradeoffs students make to optimize learning need to be acknowledged. Some learn better from the textbook, and attending a lecture with 200 people with the professor going over the slides and constantly being bogged down by questions may be detrimental for such an individual. While one may argue that this student could use this as review, there may also be better ways of solidifying knowledge. For some, doing different practice problems with one’s own hand is better than watching different people solve one problem.

Another defect of required attendance is schedule conflicts during course enrollment. In order to graduate in time, students need to take certain courses, but the course enrollment system does not always allow for a perfect schedule. If attendance is required, even if a student thoroughly understands the topic, they will lose points from missing class, even if the choice to miss class was made in order to optimize learning and enable them to come to such an understanding. Thus, to get the right thing, students feel pressured into making choices suboptimal for their learning, which contradicts the primary aim of education.

Attendance points also make the grading more complicated. Ideally, grading systems should be a gauge of the student’s competence with the material. This does not correlate to a student’s effort or enthusiasm. While the latter two are appreciated and will indeed factor strongly when students approach professors for letters of recommendation, they should be kept separate from grades for fairness and to incentivize true learning.

One may argue that attendance points will incentivize students to participate in class, which will indirectly contribute to their learning. However, this assumes that participating in class is indeed the best way for a student to learn. In reality, some students learn better by reading the book, doing practice problems in small groups, or going to a tutor.

Furthermore, rather than fail to incentivize true learning, attendance points may even encourage students to game the system. From the perspective of a lazy student, attendance points may become an easy way to get buffer points to cover the points lost over not knowing the material, leading students to waste time sitting in class and “participating” only for the sake of a grade rather than seeking to extend one’s knowledge or contributing to the discussion. Similarly, a 1999 paper by St. Clair concluded that “By making class attendance compulsory, students can lose their feeling of control, begin to feel bad about their decision to enroll in college, and may decide there are more important things to do than attend class.”

The purpose of education and grades are to instill and evaluate one’s knowledge. While class participation may help for some, for others, that time would be better spent through different means of learning. Individuals should be able to learn in whatever way suits them best as long as they achieve the ends of learning. Thus, grades should be independent of the means to that end and not be used to incentivize students to conform to a certain style of learning.
As the start date for California’s new composting mandate passes, UCSD students and administrators consider their next steps to reducing food waste on campus.

According to the Committee on Campus Climate Change (CCCC) July 2020 Food Waste Report, UC San Diego wastes around 1700–2100 tons of food yearly. The university’s operates small-scale and large-scale compost bins, which are utilized to compost their food waste and organics, UCSD will have to make some changes.

Though there’s a grace period of two years, Calrecycle, a state agency, will evaluate if cities are sufficiently abiding the new rules and subsequently fine property owners or cities. Here at UCSD, both administrators and students are working to promote more sustainable practices with regard to food waste.

As a student, Cantin Frederick, UCSD graduate and Marine Biology major, became lead author on the 2021 Food Waste Report through reaching out to the chair of the CCCC, Ram Ramanathan. Drawing attention to an issue that felt largely swept under the rug, the Food Waste Report expanded research out to UCSD to find. UCSD’s capacity to compost their food waste and organics is a family owned and locally operated collection and recycling company. The collective considers mandatory composting to be an essential step towards reducing its Zero Waste goals. EDCO proposes their new anaerobic digestion facility as a solution to food waste. Anaerobic digestion is “a process through which bacteria break down organic matter,” according to the EPA.

The UCSD campus is actively using two on-site anaerobic digesters. Despite two recent reports (UCSD’s Zero Waste Plan and 2021 Food Waste Report) encouraging the idea, no campus digester is in use. The use of anaerobic digesters will depend on UCSD’s ability to decompose and emit methane.

“Before the report, [UCOSD’s 2019 Zero Waste Plan] concept of how much food waste was being made,” said Frederick. Frederick outlined the practices currently in place with regard to composting. UCSD composts its green waste, like landscaping debris, clippings, and wood, as well as pre-consumer food scraps (the material discarded before reaching consumers) from all markets and restaurants run by Housing, Dining, Hospitality (HDH). Other recommendations outlined in the 2019 Waste Plan include enforcing their 2018 ban on Styrofoam, and working with the UC system to ban single-use plastics on campus. UCSD’s next step could examine post-consumer food waste, for there in is currently no system in place.

“Post-consumer” food waste describes other food scraps (other than food scraps disposed of after consumer use, including paper napkins, compostable plastics, and food put into trash cans by students in residential areas and dining facilities without compost bins. UCSD’s waste hauler, EDCO, collection of post-consumer waste. Because the school has not begun this process, EDCO does not collect any post-consumer food waste. UCSD faced a number of issues in attempting to transform their composting systems, starting in the 2019 Zero Waste Plan. One hurdle is the “competition for space,” because priority is given to academic and research buildings, on-campus housing, etc. Space for on-site sorting and self-hauling is difficult to find. UCSD’s capacity to create effective organic waste systems is further complicated by a lack of regional organic recycling infrastructure.

Dawn Cox, UCSD’s environmental coordinator, works with sustainability staff and goals to achieve UCSD’s 90% Zero Waste goal. Cox explained why UCSD has not begun to use their two on-campus anaerobic digesters. “Our go-live [for the anaerobic digestion system] was supposed to be October of 2020, and then we just ran into some issues with staffing and logistics of how to get all the project on a bigger scale. Unfortunately, the project halted due to remote learning, though a new start date in the works. Cox pointed out that it would actually be a big commitment to leave compost bins unattended.”

Are we really ready to put out open cans and have everyone who knows the process?” Cox told The UCSD Guardian.

UCSD is to install compost bins and begin composting post-consumer waste to send to anaerobic digesters, they’ll need the resources and staff to conduct education programs and training to ensure proper use of compost. Cox hopes that they can begin use of the anaerobic digesters in the next six months. She also noted that in the next 90–120 days, facilities will actually begin to compost paper to go to the nearest anaerobic digester.

An informational video on the Zero Waste page informs students of the improvement of properly disposing of food waste, explaining that until EDCO begins collecting UCSD’s post-consumer waste, students can compost their food waste to student gardens around campus.

The site offers resources and links to events, programs, and ways to get involved in UC’s environmental systems and anthropology. As the start date for California’s new composting mandate passes, UCSD students and administrators consider their next steps to reducing food waste on campus.

Frederick encouraged that agreeing to reduce food waste as one of the most effective ways to get people involved. In the 2021 Food Waste Report, the UCSD Academic Senate suggests incentivizing a “zero food waste” campus. Frederick describes a mindset in which students examine their food consumption, working to understand where small changes, like choosing to go meatless, will go when disposed of. Students can implement this mindset into their daily lives through a host of different actions, including saving their leftovers, getting food from the gardens or food pantries, and composting household food waste and meat bones. A student with a zero waste mindset could say they can prevent their food from becoming someone else’s trash.

For more information on UCSD’s 90% Zero Waste goal, visit the UCSD’s website actually home to two on-site anaerobic digesters. Despite two recent reports (the 2019 Waste Report and 2021 Food Waste Report) encouraging the idea, no campus digester is in use. The use of anaerobic digesters will depend on UCSD’s ability to decompose and emit methane.

Frederick agreed that requiring students to learn about composting, or even teachings as one of the most effective ways to get people involved. The UCSD Academic Senate suggests incentivizing a “zero food waste” campus. Frederick describes a mindset in which students examine their food consumption, working to understand where small changes, like choosing to go meatless, will go when disposed of. Students can implement this mindset into their daily lives through a host of different actions, including saving their leftovers, getting food from the gardens or food pantries, and composting household food waste and meat bones. A student with a zero waste mindset could say they can prevent their food from becoming someone else’s trash.

“You’re repurposing those unwanted parts of food and giving them one more use before they have to go to the landfill,” Frederick said. “We want to eliminate food waste from becoming someone else’s trash.

Reducing the sources that generate waste is what can really make a difference.” Prelewicz said.

EDCO proposes their new composting operations on campus involve significant space for on-site sorting and self-hauling. UCSD would need containers to find. UCSD’s capacity to compost their food waste and organics is a family owned and locally operated collection and recycling company. The collective considers mandatory composting to be an essential step towards reducing its Zero Waste goals. EDCO proposes their new anaerobic digestion facility as a solution to food waste. Anaerobic digestion is “a process through which bacteria break down organic matter,” according to the EPA.

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“When we talked about implementing the new composting mandate on campus, it was a family meeting that all of the students involved at UCSD. They also agreed that students are the best people to conduct transports to the nearest anaerobic digester,” Prelewicz said.

“I feel like a lot of the big changes we’ve seen have been a result of students reaching out and urging campus to make changes,” Prelewicz said.

Even if students don’t have the time or opportunity to compost their food, Frederick encourages them to take even just a moment to appreciate where it came from. “Remove the waste from your plate, think about where it went into your food to get to your plate. People had to pick it up, ship it, cool it, put it in a little wax layer or container around it, someone had to sell it, someone had to buy it. Make the most of it. Why should its life cycle have to end in the landfill?” Frederick told The UCSD Guardian.
"Licorice Pizza" itself was. Would play music, so it actually did kinda feel like we were all at a party," Haim said. "One of my favorite parts about filming the movie is when we got to the pinball palace, between takes or if we were reloading lm. "One of my favorite parts about filming the movie is when we got to the pinball palace, between takes or if we were reloading lm. "One of my favorite parts about filming the movie is when we got to the pinball palace, between takes or if we were reloading lm.

"I'm just so happy to be here," Haim said. "I'm not as crazy as Alana Kane," Haim said. "But she rides for, you know, her friends and really getting into my body." A glaring detail about "Licorice Pizza" is the uncanny way it seems to mirror real life. For the longest time it kinda felt like this weird family vacation movie that we all kinda made, but I never really thought anyone was gonna see," Haim said, an interesting story and many others inform viewers on just how entertaining the film viewed it. The movie was very much a family affair for Haim as her real life sisters and parents appear in "Licorice Pizza" to play their film counterparts. "I don't know how to work with anybody else," Haim said. She would later ironically receive a call from her father during the conference, driving this point even further. Despite this, her family was only able to be on set for a limited amount of time due to COVID-19 restrictions. "I was alone for the first time in my life," Haim said. Without her family, Haim turned to Anderson for support and he certainly delivered. Her past work with Anderson on music videos was her "cheat sheet" into transitioning into acting, Haim said. "We had already had such a great working relationship," Haim said. His patience and encouragement are ultimately what made the filming experience better for her as a new actress.

Filming itself still remained in its natural and relaxed atmosphere. Haim remembered she had the most fun driving a U-haul backwards with Hoffman and Bradley Cooper, as well as spending time at Anderson's reimagined version of the iconic LA restaurant Tail o' the Cock. "It was just as fun as it looks," Haim said. The 70s time period was also kept consistent during filming as phones were not kept on set.

"Really these two people meet and they don't know it yet, but their lives are forever changed and they go on these crazy adventures," Haim believes that the film parallels her personal relationship with Paul and Cooper Hoffman, and how meeting both of them has forever changed her life. "They make my life so rich and happy and that definitely is how I feel with Gary and Alana."
If you're anything like me, you've been going a little crazy attending Zoom University this quarter. Cooped up inside, I bet you're itching for some fresh air. And, the walk to your nearest dining hall isn't necessarily the best form of exercise. So, it is my pleasure to provide you with this helpful field guide. Hopefully, I'll make your next hike more exciting, recognizing our native La Jolla flora. With the nearest hike into the great outdoors being just a 10–15 minute walk from campus, you too could soon be immersed in nature with the valuable knowledge I will gladly bestow upon you. So without further ado, here is Bradley's Field Guide to the La Jolla Wilderness!

**California Brittlebush *Encelia Californica***

The California Brittlebush is only one of the many yellow flowers you may see while out and about the La Jolla wilderness. With its long stem, dark center, and dainty petals, the brittlebush resembles a daisy. However, the brittlebush thrives in a harsher and arid environment, unlike the fragile daisy. Take a look at their center and see the pollen gathered and left by the bees in the area and how its orange hue reflects against the dark background. You can see how the petals are perforated at its ends, giving this flower bush its iconic shape, making it a sight to behold on your next hike!

**Bermuda Buttercup *Oxalis Pes-Caprae***

Another iconic yellow flower that can be seen in the nearby areas is the Bermuda Buttercup. With a softer and brighter hue, the buttercup's petals seem almost opaque and add a wonderful brightness to the otherwise brown and green environment. If you can, take a look at the leaves of this plant. Notice their roundness, almost like clovers, and how their shape completely compliments the silhouette of the buttercup. If you're lucky, you'll see a field of them with the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop. And while they may look fragile, their resistance to La Jolla weather makes that a tried-and-true staple of this landscape.

**California Prickly Pear Cactus *Opuntia Phaeacantha***

You may be thinking that cactuses are strictly desert plants. However, La Jolla's relatively dry climate (compared to further up north) makes this a great place for cactuses to share their homes with the bushes and wildflowers. If you're lucky, you'll see a greenish/yellowish flower blooming from the top of the cactus: a great juxtaposition of beauty and fragility compared to the tough and spiky skin of the prickly pear cactus. Clumps of these cacti can be found interspersed on any hiking trail nearby, so you'll be sure to see them while you're out exploring.

**Fan Palms *Washingtonia Filifera***

These trees are more of a SoCal staple rather than a La Jolla staple. However, you'll recognize that the fan palms you'll see are neatly trimmed and are more of a residential/urban feature of the La Jolla landscape. But, if you can find one away from the hustle and bustle of the streets and sidewalks, you'll see its dead leaves still a part of the tree, hanging below the fresh and healthy palms. Watch how their leaves sway in the wind. Hear their rustling, and appreciate their green hats, standing tall above the skyline.

**Eucalyptus/Gum Trees *Eucalyptus Mannifera***

For this tree, you really don't need to travel far. These bad boys are EVERYWHERE. On and off campus, you'll be able to spot their waxy leaves and stripped bark. Eucalyptus groves are also easy to recognize because many plants aren't able to grow around these trees. Like the bad-asses they are, Eucalyptus trees taint the soil they grow in, making it virtually impossible for other species to grow nearby. Take a second look at these green giants the next time you're walking around campus. I think that their foliage reflects the sunlight and dances with the wind beautifully. Sitting, watching, and listening to them, in my opinion, would be a great use of your time.

In conclusion, go outside and take a walk! Discover some plants and trees that you like. And, take in the fresh La Jolla air. Best of luck fellow ecologists!
An All Stars Showdown

By Emily Ito

They were neck and neck, the votes split directly down the middle. The ‘silky soccer ball’ versus the snowball royalty, the greatest and fiercest matchup since Batman versus Superman. The Chonky Choice All Stars Tournament was not a contest, but a battle. I sat perched at the edge of my seat, biting my nails and refreshing my page, awaiting the much anticipated results. Emotions were running high; the close match and the delayed results had many followers, myself included, in extreme distress. I scrolled through the comments, seeing my fellow fans endorsing their favorite fat cat and bad-mouthing their rival.

I knew where my loyalties lie, having followed @snacksthefatcat for months. But I will admit that there was another cat that I had initially championed for. @missbiscuitsfatcat, the beautiful and elegant calico kitty from North Carolina, was my obvious first choice; I advocated for her win, encouraging everyone I knew to vote for her. Yet despite my efforts, Miss Biscuits was eliminated in the very first round, bested by internet celebrity, @kingduncan__.

Fortunately for me though, my second favorite fat internet cat, Miss Snacks, was pulling through. She won round after round, beating out major competitors like @keith_the_cat_cow and @cinderblock_cat. Every bracket she entered, she dominated, raking in victory after victory. My hopes were high and I was confident that Miss Snacks would reign supreme. With her class, sass, and a--, there was no way that any other cat was worthy of the All Stars Chonky Choice title.

I was highly optimistic and feeling quite positive until I saw the final matchup. My heart sank and a pit formed in my stomach. I had faith in Miss Snacks, the tuxedo goddess, but I was worried. King Duncan had already beaten Miss Biscuits and had more than twice the number of followers as Snacks. He had the pull, he had the support, and he had the charm. I had my doubts that Miss Snacks was at a place in the internet totem pole to really take home this win.

But despite his obvious leg up, Miss Snacks held her own. The thousands of voters were split down the middle, each of these two cats being backed by endless support from their dedicated fans. I was running for her, doing everything in my power to tip the scale in her favor. But on the evening of Jan. 19, King Duncan was named the official winner.

I really thought I’d be bitter, but I had to concede. It was a fierce competition and I had my favorites, but I also recognized that King Duncan earned it. He fought long and hard, and unfortunately for Miss Snacks, the odds were in his favor. He deserved the win and I can recognize that at this time, King Duncan is the ultimate fat internet cat.

But I must emphasize that my concession does not mean I’ve given up on Miss Snacks. King Duncan is a handsome lad with a big personality, but Miss Snacks will always hold my heart. Despite Duncan’s obvious smugness, she took the loss with such elegance and grace, congratulating the King on his win and maintaining her composure, like the classy beauty she is.

She may have taken the loss today, but this is not the end for Miss Snacks. One day, Miss Snacks will be the Chonky Choice Queen.

(Disclaimer: All of the cats featured on @weratechonks are on a diet. To my knowledge, all of these fur babies are on a journey towards a healthy weight and are quite beloved.)
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In the sport of MMA, more so than other sports, the media and people alike move on from last week’s events so quickly. Games or events that are supposed to be “big” can seem “old news” for a long time” are instead last week’s news the day after. UCSD’s basketball team (8–11, 2–6 Big West) suffered their third defeat in a row in all competitions to California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo (5–12, 2–4 Big West) this past Thursday at home in La Jolla, the score 55–59 at the full-time buzzer. Despite maintaining the lead for the majority of the evening, the Tritons lost their grip on the game after a second-half push by the Mustangs who nabbed the victory late in a spectator-less RIMAC Arena. In a particularly lopsided affair, both teams should be proud of the determined defensive effort of each and every put-in, but UCSD will be doubly disappointed to have given up the lead in the final quarter after holding on to it for most of the game. Despite the final scoreline favoring the visitors, the Tritons were the stronger team overall, albeit a brief decline in form that cost them in the end.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo began brightly, winning possession and a scoring opportunity out of the gate. The low-scoring pattern of the evening continued as the visitors adviced from the get-go, however, with a UCSD lead field to 4–2 for the opening play, courtesy of a pair of layups by sophomore forward Rokac and freshman forward Francis Nwaorkorie. Although both teams went in and forth in baskets after that initial slow start, the Tritons maintained their first half building their advantage. A trio of 3-pointers from redshirt junior guard Lake Sokasak and as well as a pair of rebounds from head coach Bryce Pope helped widen the home side’s lead, and a pair of free throws from Rokac were the last of the half to make the score 33–22 at the buzzer.

The second half began with a layup by Cal Poly San Luis Obispo followed by a pair of buckets for the Tritons from Rokac and Nwaorkorie. However, 6:30 into the half, UCSD would hold a six-minute period in which the visitors would fail to make a point. The game went through a few periods in which the teams traded points as well as a couple of timeouts before UCSD would continue to narrow the gap. A pair of buckets from Rokac and two free throws from Titons’ senior forward Jake Kosakowski as well as a trio of 3-pointers from Rokac would build up momentum that saw them continue to narrow the gap further. Overall, a layup by Cal Poly San Luis Obispo’s Trevor Taylor brought the visitors over the mark to take the lead for the first time in the game. In the last few minutes, the Tritons doubled down and made a valiant effort to pull back the advantage, with Rokac stealing four points back from a couple of layups. Unfortunately for the home team, it wasn’t enough to take back the game, and after a trio of free throws from the visitors, the game ended in a disappointingly close 55–59 defeat for the Tritons.

Rocak was one of the standout performers on the evening, leading the Tritons with a contribution of 15 points on the board. He also impressed by putting up a double-double of 12 points and 12 rebounds, his second of the season. Sokasak and Pope also made vital contributions to UCSD’s scoresheet, each adding four points to the tally and 14 and 12 points, respectively.

UCSD had the advantage for most of the game, but both sides put out low shooting percentages, with the Tritons shooting 33% on field goals throughout the whole game. The game went through a few periods in which the teams traded points as well as a couple of timeouts before UCSD would continue to narrow the gap. Overall, a layup by Cal Poly San Luis Obispo’s Trevor Taylor brought the visitors over the mark to take the lead for the first time in the game. In the last few minutes, the Tritons doubled down and made a valiant effort to pull back the advantage, with Rokac stealing four points back from a couple of layups. Unfortunately for the home team, it wasn’t enough to take back the game, and after a trio of free throws from the visitors, the game ended in a disappointingly close 55–59 defeat for the Tritons.

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