

STUDENT HOMELESSNESS

Advocates protest across campus

SJSU homeless coalition says university needs to fully meet demands, rights

By Eva Martin
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday around 40 people gathered at the San Jose State Olympic Black Power Statue for the SJSU Student Homeless Alliance press conference following the Fall 2021 semester housing assistance results.

Student Homeless Alliance (SHA) is an SJSU student-led organization looking for solutions to homelessness and raising awareness of the homeless student population, according to the organization's Instagram page.

The organization led a march across campus prior to the press conference, stopping by the Student Union and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. Several SHA members said those campus buildings are often used by homeless students as "last resort shelters."

More than 30 SHA members and supporting community members marched across campus chanting "Fight, fight, fight, housing is a human right" and "We're fired up, can't take it anymore."

SHA members created an open letter on April 11 to SJSU Interim President Steve Perez, who attended the Wednesday press conference, asking him to fully implement the SJSU-SHA agreement. The open letter had around 600 signatures as of Wednesday.

The SJSU-SHA agreement included the following recommendations: establish a basic need advisory committee, improve SJSU Cares program and its communication, pilot an emergency beds program funded by Santa Clara county, long-term rental assistance program and 15% of new SJSU housing construction being dedicated to previously homelessness and low-income students.

Anthony Majano, sociology



PHOTOS BY EVAN REINHARDT | SPARTAN DAILY

Above: Members of the Student Homeless Alliance march across campus chanting, "Shame on you SJSU" during a demonstration on Wednesday before holding a news conference at the Olympic Black Power Statues. **Bottom left:** SJSU Interim President Steve Perez speaks with Scott Myers-Lipton, Student Homeless Alliance advisor and sociology professor, during the press conference.

junior and president of SHA, said that Perez is the first SJSU president to attend a SHA press conference.

SJSU Cares is a division of student affairs that assists students facing "unforeseen" economic crises by providing basic need assistance according to its website.

"[SHA members] are asking all the right questions and concentrating on all the right things," Perez said in an interview. "Our students need to have a certainty of where they're going to be able to sleep before we're going to be able to have them be successful."

Majano said he feels "little to no progress has been made" on the agreement.

"Over the past semester, we have been in constant negotiations

and discussion with the university regarding our demand for full implementation of the SJSU-SHA agreement," he said.

During the conference, SHA members asked for the improvement of SJSU Cares exit surveys.

Kenneth Mashinchi, SJSU senior director of strategic communications and media relations said in a March 23 email that SJSU Cares currently provides exit surveys, with text reminders if needed and paper copies at the front desk.

Majano said members of SHA received just a few "vague" student responses from the Fall 2021 exit surveys.

Scott Myers-Lipton, SJSU sociology professor and SHA advisor, said the current questions

asked in the survey make it difficult for students to understand how SJSU Cares works.

"What the students are hoping for is to help create an exit interview . . . so we can understand what's happening, not to criticize the university, but to make it function," Myers-Lipton said.

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Scott Myers-Lipton
SJSU sociology professor and
SHA advisor

The Basic Needs Advisory Committee to SJSU Cares, which was founded in 2020 in accordance with the SJSU-SHA agreement, canceled its January quarterly meeting "to allow time to thoughtfully restructure interactions with students," Mashinchi said.

"These meetings were not only hierarchical in nature, but also very unproductive," Majano said. "Rather than building transparency between us and them, they have done the opposite."

He added that Perez said he will personally oversee the advisory committee and work on creating the collaborative partnership envisioned in the 2019 agreement.

"We are hoping that together we can create an environment where we can actually have a voice," Majano said.

Mashinchi said 213 students requested housing assistance during the Fall 2021 semester, and 12 were provided emergency housing.

"Twelve students got on and off-campus housing, but we [still] don't know how many [SJSU] emergency beds," Myers-Lipton said.

The emergency bed program includes 12 beds on campus, required as a minimum in the 2019 SHA-SJSU agreement.

Myers-Lipton said he believes SJSU purposefully wasn't clear about how many emergency beds have been used, allegedly "embarrassed" about this result.

SHA members said Associated Students gave \$94,860 to fund the Fall 2021 semester of on-campus emergency beds.

Josephine Padilla-McNulty, SJSU psychology senior and SHA vice president said the SJSU Cares website "finally" states that students have up to 28 days of housing without having to maximize loans.

"We've been promised things in the past and have been disappointed with the results," Padilla-McNulty said. "But we are cautiously optimistic that by working with President Perez, we can make it so students can actually receive a bed."

SHA members and Perez will meet today to discuss the SJSU-SHA agreement.

"At the end of the day, we all have the same goal, which is to raise awareness for the issue and to help our fellow students in need," Majano said.

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SJSU observes 52nd Earth Day

Photos by Evan Reinhardt

Top left: Maru Zamora and Lori Rodriguez tilt their heads towards the sun during their Aztec dance performance on Wednesday. The performance was part of the Earth Day Resource Fair on Tower Lawn. **Bottom left:** Lori Rodriguez circles Tower Lawn as part of the Movimiento Cultural Anahuac Aztec dance performance during the Earth Day Fair Wednesday.

Top right: Theatre arts junior Lauren Suiter spins across the fashion show stage Suiter said she salvages and tailors used clothes for her own wardrobe. **Bottom right:** Carolina Garcia, left, and Miguel Larios lead the performance with drumming as Aztec performers dance during the Earth Day Resource Fair. Larios is the director of Movimiento Cultural Anahuac.



Tower Lawn fair focuses on investing in sustainable practices

By Jennifer Schildge & Don Le
STAFF WRITER & SENIOR STAFF WRITER

San Jose State students, faculty and community members gathered on Tower Lawn Wednesday to celebrate and spread awareness for the environment at the annual SJSU Earth Day Resource Fair.

An Aztec performance, fashion show and various organizations from SJSU and the city of San Jose advocated for the theme of Earth Day 2022: "Invest in Our Planet."

SJSU Interim President Steve Perez spoke about the importance of creating a sustainable Earth for "every living creature." He said SJSU has a vast history of activism regarding Earth Day.

"We have over 150 years of history, and it's history we can be unbelievably proud of. It's a history of activism. It's a history of change," Perez said during the event. "It's a history of promoting things that are good and necessary and Earth Day is right along with those things."

The founder of Earth Day, Gaylord Nelson, was a 1939 SJSU alumnus. He helped popularize the holiday in February 1970, according to SJSU's Office of Sustainability website.

Two months before the first Earth Day, students who attended SJSU pushed a brand-new Ford Maverick from a car dealer's lot in Los Gatos to the center of campus where it was buried in a pit near the Student Union to protest the use of fossil fuels.

Perez said SJSU is in the top 6% nationally of sustainable college campuses this year.

At the event, there were many booths to promote environmental awareness to SJSU and the broader San Jose community.

Ann Jasper, program manager of City of San Jose Department of

Transportation's Walk n' Roll, was energetic as she promoted safe roads for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

"We're out here just kind of spreading the word to walk and bike, not just for the environment but also for just personal health and alleviate all the traffic that we have in the Bay Area," Jasper said.

She said after two years without in-person outreach, it felt really nice to talk to people again.

“

If I'm going to be living here for the next at least 70 years, hopefully, I just want to take care of the place I'm in. I want to be able to pass it onto the next generation. So people can see how I see nature versus how humanity has kind of forsaken it.

The South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to cleaning creeks and rivers in the Santa Clara Valley, promoted the diverse array of animals that inhabit Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek while passing out fliers and promoting sign-up sheets for local volunteering events including trash cleanups.

"It's good to have the word out about what's going on with our Earth. Everybody should be interested in it. We all live in it. And I'm very grateful that [the university invited] us out here," said Joshua Lopez, an intern for South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition. "This is a lot of fun and it's good to meet all these new people."

The event also featured a fashion

show by the SJSU Environmental Resource Center that highlighted sustainable fashion choices and secondhand clothing.

The Environmental Resource Center is the student-run activist section of SJSU's Environmental Studies Department and pushes for sustainability efforts on campus according to its website.

The fashion show was emceed by San Jose mayoral candidate and SJSU global studies junior

of which were dedicated to the planet for Earth Day.

The Aztec dancers dressed in colorful regalia with feathered headdresses and beaded ankle bracelets and twirled to the piercing beat of two Aztec drums.

"The first one is called 'Tonantzin,' that's Mother Earth, the second song was 'Náhuatl,' which is the Earth itself," said Ariana Briones, one of the four dancers.

Briones said he believes as a society, people get too caught up in the stresses of their lives and forget that they came from the Earth.

"The Earth gives us life and sustenance . . . so I think Earth Day is really important to celebrate, [remind] ourselves of our gratitude towards the Earth and what we can do better each day in our lives to make sure that it's healthy for future generations" Briones said.

Sean O'Connell, third year environmental studies major, works at the Environmental Resource Center and described organizing the event as "busy."

O'Connell said growing up he spent a lot of his quality time in nature which influenced his environmentalism.

"If I'm going to be living here for the next at least 70 years, hopefully, I just want to take care of the place I'm in. I want to be able to pass it onto the next generation," O'Connell said. "So people can see how I see nature versus how humanity has kind of forsaken it."

Marshall Allen Woodmansee as he introduced student models while they walked the runway with outfits bought at thrift stores or passed down from family members.

Jackelin Solorio, fourth year spatial arts major, said if people purchase less clothing, they can ease the negative effect clothing has on the planet.

"A lot of the clothing that we have with fast fashion is just in and out and it ends up being in landfills," Solorio said. "Clothing made correctly and with love can have multiple lives."

The event also featured a traditional Aztec dance performance by the non-profit San Jose-based Aztec dance group "Movimiento Cultural de Anahuac," that incorporated three separate dances, two

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Esports club seeks athletics status

By Christopher Nguyen
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Video Games may become part of San Jose State sports as a group of students makes strides to change what it means to become a competitor.

The SJSU Esports Club was founded in 2018 and opened a fundraiser this month to support current and future generations of SJSU Esports student-athletes.

The fundraiser has raised \$21,000 of its \$40,000 goal.

“We’re currently trying to have a facility on campus,” said Ameet Jogia SJSU business management senior and current SJSU Esports Club president in a Discord call. “We do want to eventually be part of athletics.”

Jogia has been part of the club since his freshman year and originally wanted to be a League of Legends competitor.

League of Legends, an online team-based strategy game developed and published by Riot Games, which primarily consists of a five versus five battle with the primary objective of destroying the opposite Nexus, a guarded structure set with either a red or blue crystal, located in the enemy’s base.

“I realized I wasn’t good enough compared to a bunch of other people that played the game a lot more than me,” he said over a Discord call.

While Jogia was not able to be a competitor, he said he wanted “to get into esports and gaming in the long run.” As Jogia worked in the club, he became the group’s president in 2021.

While Jogia has been managing teams and creating weekly meetings, he said he’s also been trying to find gaming-related sponsors for the esports club.

Sabrina Tran, graphics major senior and SJSU Esports Club graphics team lead, has been a



Members of the San Jose State Esports Club stand outside on Tower Lawn after a CSU Finals gaming tournament on Jan. 15.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SJSU ESPORTS TEAM

member since Fall 2020.

“I was already a designer with the Gaming club,” she said over a Discord call, “They didn’t have a graphics person, so I was like their first graphics person.”

As Tran worked with the esports club, her team expanded, gaining six additional members.

“I still do graphics,” she said. “When I am overwhelmed, I’m like: ‘Can anyone do this and can anyone do that?’”

Tran said she plans to graduate by Spring 2023 and while there is no designated successor yet, she hopes the next graphics team lead will be better at management.

Coel Horsfall, molecular biology junior, team coordinator and SJSU’s League of Legends Blue team captain, said while several members

adding to the success of the club their personal responsibilities are not neglected.

“I try to make sure who’s the first priority and make sure all the players are going to school first,” he said. Horsfall said he’s been with the esports club since Fall 2019 as a way to open himself up and meet new people.

“I have always just been a competitive person and I was good at League at the time,” he said. “I applied and they gave me the spot.”

League of Legends has many characters to be picked and played into five official roles: Top Lane, Jungle, Mid Lane, Bottom Lane and Support. Horsfall’s main role in the game for Blue team is currently Jungle, essentially moving around the map to support teammates while

also completing extra objectives.

Horsfall said while he’s good at his position, it’s not his favorite role.

He said his favorite League of Legends position is Top or Mid Lane but he decided to come back to and play Jungle because he thinks it would help the team win more games.

“This semester and this year, I think our Top and Mid have been really strong players on their own,” Horsfall said.

While winning competitions is important to Horsfall, he said he would like the SJSU Esports Club to be part of the athletics program, paying the endowment and receiving scholarship funds for future players, after he graduates.

“I think some of our players are good enough to where they should

be receiving some kind of scholarships and there are schools out there that give out scholarships that would probably end up recruiting them if they had a chance,” he said.

The League of Legends Blue team has won the Mountain West Conference to play in the 2022 League of Legends College Championship. Their first scheduled game in the national championship will be against Michigan State University this Saturday and will be streamed live on the Twitch channel of Esports Event Organizer Unified, at 5 p.m.

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CLASSIFIEDS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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	48	49								50		51	52	53
54								55		56				
57								58						59
60								61						62

ACROSS

- 1. Bawdy
- 5. Chasm
- 9. Perch
- 14. Sore
- 15. Sloth
- 16. Concur
- 17. Broadcasts
- 19. Not dirty
- 20. Not animal
- 21. Most rundown
- 23. Lacking taste
- 25. Post
- 28. Aster
- 29. Stomach muscles, for short
- 32. Without difficulty
- 33. How old you are
- 34. Surveyor’s map
- 35. Tube
- 36. Extraterrestrial
- 38. Prospector’s find
- 39. Anagram of “Sage”
- 40. Lass
- 41. Mooch
- 43. Local Area Network
- 44. Dowel
- 45. Algae
- 46. Knock-down-drag-out fights
- 48. Sideways passes
- 50. Verify

DOWN

- 1. Strip of wood
- 2. Beige
- 3. Hit hard
- 4. Sequence of powerful leaders
- 5. Sweetened chicle
- 6. Occurring together
- 7. Not earlier
- 8. Central body of an airplane
- 9. Bigot
- 10. Looks at lustfully
- 11. Minerals
- 12. Chair
- 13. 5 plus 5
- 18. Symbol of slowness
- 22. Protections from harm
- 24. A canoe traveler (Canadian history)
- 25. Floral leaf
- 26. Coniferous forest
- 27. Poplar variety
- 29. Companionless

ACROSS

- 30. Insignia
- 31. Horse
- 33. Be bedridden
- 34. A sharp steel wedge
- 37. Slowpokes
- 42. Mend
- 44. Promise solemnly
- 45. Benne
- 46. Con game
- 47. Armada
- 48. Racing sled
- 49. Dry
- 51. Black, in poetry
- 52. Clothed
- 53. Knows (Scottish)
- 54. The collection of rules
- 56. Police officer

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

		6		9		1		
			1		4	9		
	4							
	8	4		7	6			
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		3	8		9			
		8		4		3		

JOKIN’ AROUND

“Where do parnets hide their stash?”

In-between the “Kush-ions”

SOLUTIONS April 19

C	O	B	R	A		A	C	E	D		A	R	K	S			
U	N	I	O	N		N	A	P	E		B	A	N	E			
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E	Y	E	D			T	S	A	R		E	S	S	E	S		

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1	6	5	8	4	2	9	3	7
8	3	4	9	6	7	5	1	2
9	4	1	3	7	6	2	8	5
3	5	2	1	9	8	7	6	4
6	8	7	2	5	4	3	9	1
7	2	3	6	1	9	4	5	8
4	9	6	7	8	5	1	2	3
5	1	8	4	2	3	6	7	9

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D'NETRUS CHEVIS-ROSE | SPARTAN DAILY

Gijs Mom, Daniel Sperling and Asha Weinstein Agrawal discuss the history, present and future of electric vehicles during a Tuesday morning Zoom webinar.

Engineering experts explain electric vehicles

By D'Netrus Chevis-Rose
STAFF WRITER

The SJSU Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) hosted a Zoom webinar Tuesday in partnership with the Department of History and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning in celebration of Earth Day and to educate participants about the past, present and future of electric vehicles (EVs).

Earth Day, which is celebrated to encourage environmental protection and awareness, has been celebrated every year on April 22 since 1970, according to the Earth Day organization website. The event was created by SJSU alumnus and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson.

Tuesday's webinar aimed to be an "annual reminder" for individuals to be mindful of the planet's health and an opportunity to discuss topics relating to the environment including electric vehicle technology, according to the SJSU MTI webpage.

The event was hosted by Asha Weinstein Agrawal, education director of the transportation institute.

Speakers included Gijs Mom, former associate professor at the Eindhoven University of Technology and Daniel Sperling, distinguished Blue Planet Prize professor of the UC Davis

Civil Engineering and Environmental Science programs.

Mom and Sperling discussed the potential for electric vehicles to become sustainable transportation systems for upcoming generations while examining the infrastructure's history.

Mom said scientists and engineers have in fact been developing ideas for vehicles to function independently from gasoline and steam engines for nearly two centuries.

Mom said many people have varying expectations of what the clean-energy car should look like, and for decades people imagined "flying cars" as the vehicles of the future.

"The engineering trends in 1900 imagined the future as a kind of congestion in the air, because at that moment the airplane and air balloon were very popular," Mom said during the event.

Mom shared a vintage image from a Dutch engineering journal published in 1900, which he said was one of the first conceptualized electric vehicles.

He said during the early 1900's the future of electric vehicles was a topic of interest, but electric engines became a fantasy because of the success of gasoline-dependent internal combustion engines.

Mom said the vehicles did not fail because of technological disadvantages,

but because of the perception that transportation by electric vehicles was "for the incompetent."

Agrawal also said she believes the transportation previously failed because society was not "culturally ready" for the new technology.

"Around 1920 there were both electric vehicles and internal combustion gasoline powered vehicles floating in the United States," Agrawal said in a Zoom call. "There was this marketing campaign that electric vehicles were for ladies and gas vehicles were for men."

Agrawal said in the 1920s some favored electric vehicles because they had a shorter range, meaning they didn't travel as fast or far as a gasoline vehicle.

She said marketing tactics at the time were "gender specific claims," arguing that women needed slower vehicles to drive around the neighborhood and men needed faster vehicles for longer commutes to work.

She added that gasoline vehicles required a "strong arm" to crank the dirty starter and women were believed to be better suited for a "cleaner" vehicle with a button to start its engine.

Many of the speakers said people often favor gasoline vehicles because of economic concerns rather than gender stereotypes.

In his presentation, Mom said there are economic disadvantages of modern electric and hybrid vehicles. "Most experts concluded that for this generation, the [electric vehicle] cannot compete with mainstream vehicles, in terms of cost," Mom said.

Sperling added that the price of electric vehicles has decreased over the past decade.

Sperling said the manufacturing cost for batteries in electric cars has reduced

by 90% since 2010, which has lowered the sales cost of the electric vehicles.

Historically, lead acid was the primary manufacturing method for EV batteries throughout the 90s, until nickel metal hydride batteries emerged in the 2000s.

“Around 1920 there were both electric vehicles and internal combustion gasoline powered vehicles floating in the United States. There was this marketing campaign that electric vehicles were for ladies and gas vehicles were for men.”

Asha Weinstein Agrawal
transportation institute education director

"We've gone from lead acid to nickel metal hydride and then lithium ion batteries which have been continually improved and cost reduced," Sperling said. "There's likely to be new batteries in the future so the costs are continuing to come down, that's why everyone expects zero emission vehicles to really dominate the future."

“Most experts concluded that for this generation, the EV cannot compete with mainstream vehicles, in terms of cost.”

Dr. Gijs Mom
former associate professor Eindhoven University of Technology

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