

INTRODUCING THE SUA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Soka University of America students went to the polls Oct. 2 to elect their first student leaders to serve a one-year term in the Soka Student Government Association at the Aliso Viejo campus.

Pilipino Navarro was elected president and will lead the governing body, which is expected to set traditions and policies as well as establish by-laws and the organization's constitution.

"Every student at SUA is a member of the SSGA. I think part of my job as their president is to represent their interests and serve as a liaison between them and the university administration," says Navarro. "Also, I will try to make sure that students are able to get everything they deserve to assist with their studies and also support the student body so that they are able to help themselves—I believe in empowerment."

Navarro's duties also include serving on the important University Life Committee, which addresses issues affecting the university community as a whole, supervising operations of all committees of the SSGA, preparing the SSGA budget and establishing the agenda for all SSGA meetings.

Serving with Navarro is Tetsushi Ogata as SSGA Vice President, and his duties include assisting the student body president in his duties, serving on the university's Academic Program Committee and being a member of the University Judicial Board.

Susan Ikeda was elected as Treasurer and will be responsible to receive and disburse funds, formulate and administer the SSGA budget and to oversee distribution and accounting of all SSGA funds as well as set financial procedures for the entire SSGA.

Malayna Butler will serve as the group's Secretary and her job will be to publish the SSGA meeting agenda as well as record and make available the minutes of each SSGA meeting and publish any action taken by the SSGA and its committees.

"My responsibility is to keep students informed and to document all of the happenings in the meeting. I feel very fortunate to have such a position," mentions Butler.

The Attorney General is Mitsuko Takahashi and she will serve as Elections Chair for all SUA student elections, setting dates, rules and procedures for all upcoming elections. She will also be versed in all university polices and serve as a resource in areas of student rights and in resolving constitutional issues for both the student government association and student clubs.