

From Savannah Parison, for Sara Sterphone's Getman Nomination:

I first spoke meaningfully with Sara in the capacity that she was willing to talk with anyone who might be interested in applying for her role at the College of Creative Studies. She cared deeply in finding the right fit for this unique position in order to serve the well-being of the college and its students. I asked her why she was leaving her position, and it became clear in her immediate reaction that she LOVED working with the students of CCS, and was not leaving under any duress. Quite the opposite - she gave abundantly of herself, even when she was no longer in the position, by splitting her time between her old job and her new one at the Registrar's Office. She wanted to make sure that CCS's students continued to feel her support in the interim. She continued to meet with me (before the lockdown) to help me settle in to the role and talk with me about the students with whom she had formed the closest bonds. I've seen Sara cry tears of joy and tears of sorrow for CCS's students, and her commitment to helping them knew no bounds.

I have been an academic advisor at UCSB for over four years now, and I can confidently say that Sara's commitment to students is unique and exemplary. I was impressed with how Sara spoke of her role in the college, its challenges and its triumphs. She was an excellent ambassador, both candid and professionally discreet. She attended Admissions recruitment events both on campus and off to help recruit new and unique students to UCSB. I would not have applied for this position without Sara to speak so highly of it, and I do not believe I would have had such a solid start without her patience and dedication outside of her actual job. I consider filling Sara's shoes a tall order, and I don't think I will ever feel like I have truly succeeded at living up to her high example. But Sara would say that I shouldn't try to be a copy of her, and that we all have unique assets. I consider this another way in which Sara truly serves the UCSB community and lifts up the spirits of those who know her.

--

Sara talked to me often about CCS students, and they speak often of her. She ate lunch with them, emailed them to ask about their graduate school applications, attended their concerts, and showed up with buckets of coffee for recruitment events. She encouraged students who struggled, reassured them of their worth as human beings, and celebrated their triumphs over adversity. She advocated for the students who had been hurt and felt vulnerable. She still mourns the ones who hurt the most, unable to bring herself to clear out reminders of their struggles. She was a fierce advocate of justice and fair treatment. She wanted to help students feel safe, teaching about gender pronouns and making sure students knew how to call for campus escorts late at night. Commencement speeches remarked on her personality, adventurous haircuts, and her support. Students considered her just as much a part of their college experience as the classes they took and the research they did. She was a leader, a confidant, and a friend. By all accounts, she made being a part of the College a joy.

Tragically, Sara was diagnosed with an unusual form cancer in June 2020, and there is no known cure. As her family has been providing updates online, current and former students

have left comments attesting to how much she means to them, and how much she is in their thoughts. Support also overflowed from staff, as contributions to her paid leave poured in from across campus. Faculty have shown up to Zoom “coffee hour” meetings purely with the hope of hearing an update about her. Staff and faculty have signed up for her Meal Train deliveries to emphasize their support for her. I can think of no one more deserving of recognition from UCSB - to know how much she will always mean to this community of students, faculty, and staff - than Sara Sterphone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel Hanson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.