

September 12th, 2012

President Mohammad Qayoumi
Office of the President
Tower Hall 207
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0002

President Qayoumi,

My name is _____ and I am an Animation/Illustration student at San Jose State University. **I am sending you this letter to express my frustration with the mismanagement of the Animation/Illustration Program by the administration of this University.** My education is being negatively impacted by the misallocation of space in the ART building, the misinformed handling of the class caps situation on the part of Dean Vollendorf, and the disgraceful lack of representation of my program in department meetings.

I would like to share some facts with you. From Spring 2008 to Spring 2012, **Animation/Illustration enrollment grew by 295%**. During the same 4-year period, enrollment within the Graphic Design department grew by 70%, while **enrollment in the Art Department fell by 64%. Clearly the needs of these majors have fundamentally changed.** The University has done nothing to accommodate changing enrollment. With 566 students currently enrolled in the major, Animation/Illustration is the fastest growing major in all of the College of Humanities and the Arts, yet we are forced to squeeze into 3 classrooms and 2 labs. With only 4 full-time faculty, **there are over 100 students to every advisor.** Animation/Illustration students are denied access to galleries and display cases and, starting this semester, students are banned from using empty ART classrooms for figure drawing sessions.

I am tired of Animation/Illustration students getting the run-around from the administration. Class caps were set at a historical all-time low because Dean Vollendorf incorrectly believed that these caps were set by "fire codes." These codes have yet to be produced. Students were sent into a panic, believing they would not be able to add their required courses. Those who were able to add were forced to fill out unnecessary paperwork which burdened them -- and the Dean.

This award-winning program needs more space and better management if it is going to survive. It is important to me that my interests are fairly represented at department meetings. That is why I am asking you to make Animation/Illustration a department. We don't want money -- we only want two things: representation and room to grow. Please act now.

Sincerely,
