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## Finding Aid to the SLATE records CU-592

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University Archives



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**Language of Material:** English

**Contributing Institution:** University Archives

**Title:** SLATE records

**Creator:** SLATE (Organization : Calif.)

**Identifier/Call Number:** CU-592

**Physical Description:** 6.8 Linear Feet(4 cartons, 4 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

**Date (inclusive):** 1948-1988

**Abstract:** This collection documents the history and activities of SLATE and its predecessor, TASC (Towards an Active Student Community), student political organizations active on the University of California, Berkeley campus from 1957 to 1966.

**Language of Material:** Collection materials are in English.

Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

#### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection documents the history and activities of SLATE and its predecessor, TASC (Towards an Active Student Community) , student political organizations active on the UC Berkeley campus from 1957 to 1966. There are records related to the formation of SLATE and TASC; correspondence from, essays, and papers collected by SLATE members; election materials and political platforms; ephemera; materials related to the Associated Students of the University of California; meeting minutes; SLATE publications; newspaper clippings; and materials related to a 1984 reunion. The collection is divided into four series: TASC and SLATE Political Activities; SLATE Reunion; Peter Franck Papers; and Michael Rossman Papers - SLATE Political Activities and Publications.

#### **Organizational History**

SLATE was a student political organization that was active on the University of California, Berkeley campus from 1958 through 1966. It was one of the first student groups of the emerging New Left and a precursor of the Free Speech Movement. In 1957, Ralph Schaffer, Fritjof Thygeson, and Rick White formed an ad hoc group of students, Towards an Active Student Community (TASC), to run for Associated Student University of California (ASUC) office. Their goal was to force discussion of socio-political issues, like racial discrimination, that affected both the campus and society at large. TASC also campaigned against apartheid in South Africa, the loyalty oath, and nuclear testing, and for free speech on campus.

TASC was short-lived, but in late 1957, Cal senior Mike Miller called together a group of student leaders, including former members of TASC, and proposed they run as a "slate" for student government office. None of the "slate" was elected in Fall 1957, but they gained nearly 40 percent of the vote and contributed to increased voter turnout. SLATE was officially organized on February 5, 1958; roughly 100 hundred students held a convention from February 28-March 1 and committed to run candidates for student office who would engage in issue-oriented political education both on and off campus. Around that time, members of SLATE also founded the independent newspaper *The Cal Reporter*.

SLATE campaigned for "fair bear" minimum wages and affordable housing for students, and led demonstrations against compulsory ROTC, the death penalty, the California House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), and racial discrimination. They also worked to modify "Rule 17," which limited the free speech and political organizing of students on campus. SLATE became a model for similar campus political parties across the nation.

The University administration routinely tried to diminish SLATE's popularity and political power on campus. Overwhelming graduate student support for SLATE led, in April 1959, to the University disassociating graduate students from the ASUC, in an effort to take away some of SLATE's electoral power. Though the group continued to run candidates, following the 1959 decision few were elected. SLATE remained politically active, which led to repeated clashes with the university, and in June 1961, the administration revoked SLATE's status as a recognized student organization.

In 1963, SLATE began publishing the *SLATE Supplement to the General Catalog*, which offered student evaluations and recommendations of courses and professors. The supplement served as a guide for new undergraduates about how to enroll in classes and navigate the large university. SLATE members took an active part in the formation and life of the Free Speech Movement (FSM) in 1964-1965, and SLATE candidates swept the December 8, 1964 ASUC election. SLATE came close to winning a majority in ASUC in spring 1965 but lost badly in the fall. During the life of SLATE, both as an on campus and off campus group, roughly 850 students were "card carrying" members. For a more detailed history of SLATE, see the SLATE Archives website: <http://www.slatearchives.org/history.htm>

#### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

The SLATE records were given to The Bancroft Library in 2013 by the SLATE Archives Committee.

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**Conditions Governing Access**

Collection is open for research.

**Alternate Forms Available**

Digital reproductions of selected SLATE publications and leaflets are available through the SLATE Archives website and Calisphere.

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], SLATE records, CU-592, University Archives, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

**System of Arrangement**

Arranged to the folder level.

**Processing Information**

Processed by Jessica Moran, in cooperation with the SLATE Archives Committee in 2003, and by Marjorie Bryer in 2017.

**Publication Rights**

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**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Student movements -- California -- Berkeley

University of California, Berkeley -- Students -- Political Activity.

Free Speech Movement (Berkeley, Calif.)

University of California, Berkeley -- Associated Students

SLATE (Organization : Calif.)

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**Series 1. TASC and SLATE Political Activities 1957-1988**

**Physical Description:** Boxes 1-2; Carton 4, folders 1-29

**Scope and Content Note**

This series documents the history and political activities of SLATE and its predecessor, Towards an Active Student Community (TASC). It includes candidate lists and platforms, correspondence, founding documents, leaflets, meeting minutes, membership lists, materials from summer conferences, and SLATE publications. There is also correspondence and essays from Mike Miller and other early SLATE members, Associated Students of the University of California meeting minutes and election results, materials related to the student movement and New Left more broadly, and newspaper clippings documenting SLATE activity from the *Daily Cal*. Prominent issues include free speech, the House Un-American Activities Committee, housing discrimination, and ROTC.

box 1, Folder 1-3

**Associated Students University of California (ASUC) Executive Committee Minutes and Election Documents February-December 1957**

box 1, Folder 3

**ASUC Election Documents April 15, 1957**

box 1, Folder 4

**TASK 1957**

box 1, Folder 5

**Correspondence and Written Statements 1957**

box 1, Folder 6

**ASUC Executive Committee Election Documents December 1957**

box 1, Folder 7

**SLATE Election leaflets December 1957**

box 1, Folder 8-9

**SLATE Organizing Convention Documents February-March 1958**

box 1, Folder 10

**SLATE internal Documents 1958**

box 1, Folder 11

**Mike Miller Correspondence April 1958**

box 1, Folder 12

**ASUC Election Rules 1958**

box 1, Folder 13

**SLATE vs. ASUC Executive Committee circa 1958**

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box 1, Folder 14-15	<b>SLATE Election Leaflets and Documents 1958</b>
box 1, Folder 16	<b>Stephen Plagemann Correspondence 1964</b>
box 1, Folder 17	<b>SLATE Miscellaneous 1959, undated</b>
box 1, Folder 18	<b>Student Political Behavior and Attitude 1958</b>
box 1, Folder 19	<b>Untitled Essay on ASUC and SLATE undated</b>
box 1, Folder 20-21	<b>"SLATE: A Case Study in the Structure and Function of Social Conflict," including Draft, by Michael Miller undated</b>
box 1, Folder 22-23	<b>The History of SLATE circa 1958</b>
box 1, Folder 24-25	<b>SLATE Summer Conference 1961-1962</b>
box 2, Folder 1-5	<b>Newspaper Clippings 1957</b>
box 2, Folder 6	<b>Cal Reporter 1958-1960</b>
box 2, Folder 7	<b>SLATE Pamphlets circa 1959-1961</b>
box 2, Folder 8	<b>SLATE Mailing and Membership Lists 1959-1965</b>
box 2, Folder 9	<b>Pre-SLATE Political Activities - Tentative Statements undated</b>
box 2, Folder 10	<b>Student Movement - Miscellaneous circa 1964-1986</b>
box 2, Folder 11	<b>SLATE Campaign Materials and Platforms circa 1962</b>
box 2, Folder 12	<b>Free Speech Movement - 1984 Anniversary 1984</b>
Carton 4, Folder 1	<b>SLATE Summer Conference Papers 1962-1963</b>
Carton 4, Folder 2	<b>ASUC Judicial Committee (SLATE Involvement) circa 1961</b>
Carton 4, Folder 3	<b>National Student Association (NSA) Coordinator Applications 1963</b>
Carton 4, Folder 4	<b>New University Writings 1960-1963</b>
Carton 4, Folder 5	<b>Student Civil Liberties Union 1961</b>
Carton 4, Folder 6	<b>SLATE vs. Kerr Directives 1961</b>
Carton 4, Folder 7	<b>SLATE Correspondence - Miscellaneous 1957-1963</b>
Carton 4, Folder 8	<b>Mike Myerson (SLATE President) Correspondence 1961</b>
Carton 4, Folder 9-10	<b>Jerry Miller Correspondence and Papers 1961-1963</b>
Carton 4, Folder 11	<b>Brad Cleaveland Papers circa 1963</b>
Carton 4, Folder 12	<b>SLATE - "The Big Myth" undated</b>
Carton 4, Folder 13	<b>SLATE - Daily Cal Newspaper Clippings 1956-1964</b>
Carton 4, Folder 14	<b>Creighton Case - Compulsory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) 1961</b>
Carton 4, Folder 15	<b>Graduate Students Leave ASUC 1959-1962</b>
Carton 4, Folder 16	<b>Graduate Students Association 1960-1962</b>
Carton 4, Folder 17	<b>Housing Discrimination 1961-1962</b>
Carton 4, Folder 18	<b>Student Civil Liberties Union and Anti-Communist Activities circa 1962-1963</b>
Carton 4, Folder 19	<b>"Berkeley in the Sixties"/ Mark Kitchell circa 1986-1988</b>
Carton 4, Folder 20-21	<b>Victor Garlin's SLATE Papers, SLATE Catalogs 1959-1972</b>
Carton 4, Folder 22	<b>Campus Political Activities circa 1964-1966</b>
Carton 4, Folder 23	<b>SLATE Summer Conference 1961-1968</b>
Carton 4, Folder 24	<b>SLATE and Student Government Papers 1962</b>
Carton 4, Folder 25-26	<b>SLATE Forum, Summer Conference, Report, Flyers, and Miscellaneous circa 1960-1963</b>

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Carton 4, **SLATE Candidate Lists and Platforms circa 1962-1963**  
 Folder 27  
 Carton 4, **SLATE Anti-ROTC Packet 1958-1962**  
 Folder 28  
 Carton 4, **SLATE General circa 1958-1962**  
 Folder 29

Series 2. **SLATE Reunion 1984-1986**

**Physical Description:** Carton 4, folders 30-36

**Scope and Content Note**

This series consists of materials relating to the 1984 SLATE Reunion. There is correspondence about organizing the event, membership lists, leaflets distributed at the meeting, post-reunion newsletters, and reflections on the meaning and influence of SLATE and the student movement of the 1960s more generally. Correspondents include Irene Theodore, Peter Franck, Mike Miller, and Fritjof Thygeson.

Carton 4, **Statements 1984**  
 Folder 30

Carton 4, **Correspondence 1984**  
 Folder 31

Carton 4, **Miller Notes and Drafts 1984**  
 Folder 32

Carton 4, **Conference Leaflets 1984**  
 Folder 33

Carton 4, **Post-Reunion Documents 1984**  
 Folder 34

Carton 4, **Press Clippings 1984**  
 Folder 35

Carton 4, **Activities 1985-1987**  
 Folder 36

Series 3. **Peter Franck Papers 1948-1980**

**Physical Description:** Boxes 3-4

**Scope and Content Note**

This series consists of papers collected by, or related to, SLATE Archives Committee member, Peter Franck. Along with Hank DiSuvero and Pat Denton, Franck was part of a campus-wide committee of undergraduate and graduate students who worked to modify "Rule 17," which limited free speech on campus. He was a member of TASC, and part of the Temporary Coordinating Committee that officially organized SLATE on February 5, 1958. The series includes correspondence; election leaflets, materials about Rule 17, HUAC and ROTC protests; summer conference materials; and SLATE publications.

box 3, Folder 1 **Peter Franck Correspondence 1961-1962, undated**

box 3, Folder 2 **Student Civil Liberties Union 1956-1962**

box 3, Folder 3-5 **Rule 17 Correspondence, Change Organizing Documents, Revisions, and Drafts 1948-1961**

box 3, Folder 6 **Stiles Hall Records circa 1956**

box 3, Folder 7-9 **House Un-American Activities Documents, Anti-HUAC Demonstrations, and HUAC Committee Protest Newspaper Clippings 1960-1961**

box 3, Folder 10 **Committee for Voluntary ROTC Newspaper Clippings 1956**

box 3, **National Student Committee for Civil Liberties - HUAC Documents, Correspondence, Anti-HUAC Newspaper Clippings 1959-1961**  
 Folder 11-13

box 3, Folder 14 **Student Civil Liberties Union Publications 1956**

box 3, Folder 15 **Committee for Voluntary ROTC Documents 1956**

box 3, Folder 16 **Student Movement Writings circa 1961-1967**

box 4, Folder 1-2 **Cal Reporter 1958-1960**

box 4, Folder 3 **SLATE Inter-campus Coordinator Correspondence 1960**

box 4, Folder 4 **SLATE Expulsion as a University of California, Berkeley Campus Group - Notes 1959**

box 4, Folder 5-6 **SLATE Summer Conference 1961-1963**

box 4, Folder 7  
box 4, Folder 8

**SLATE Election Leaflets 1961****SLATE Newsletters 1958-1963****Series 4. Michael Rossman Papers - SLATE Political Activities and Publications 1958-1971****Physical Description:** Cartons 1-3**Scope and Content Note**

This series consists of materials collected by, or related to, Michael Rossman, who was active in creating the Free Speech Movement (FSM) Archives. Rossman, a member of the executive and steering committees of FSM, was not a member of SLATE but was, in his own words, "a fellow traveler." The series includes administrative materials; correspondence; election materials and platforms; position papers; SLATE publications, including supplements to university course catalogs, newsletters and newspapers; and materials from summer conferences. There are materials related to SLATE's activism within the student association at the University of California, the ASUC, and to student activism more broadly, in the anti-war, civil rights, farm labor, and free speech movements.

Carton 1, Folder 1  
Carton 1,  
Folder 2-4  
Carton 1, Folder 5  
Carton 1, Folder 6  
Carton 1, Folder 7  
Carton 1, Folder 8  
Carton 1, Folder 9  
Carton 1,  
Folder 10  
Carton 1,  
Folder 11  
Carton 1,  
Folder 12-13  
Carton 1,  
Folder 14  
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Folder 15  
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Folder 16-17  
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Folder 22  
Carton 1,  
Folder 23  
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Folder 24-25  
Carton 1,  
Folder 26  
Carton 1,  
Folder 27  
Carton 1,  
Folder 28  
Carton 2, Folder 1  
Carton 2, Folder 2

**Completed SLATE Questionnaires 1964-1969****SLATE Supplements and Synopsis of Courses 1958-1972****University Education Reform 1965-1967****SLATE Graduate Coordinating Committee and Free Speech Movement 1965-1966****SLATE, Free Speech Movement, Strikes 1961-1968****Free Speech Movement, Student Government Reform, SLATE 1965-1967****SLATE Organizing Materials 1959-1967*****The Campus Voice, The University Socialist* 1963****SLATE and Other Political Activities 1960-1966****SLATE Membership Lists 1963-1965****SLATE Correspondence, Student Government, and Political Activities 1961-1968****SLATE - Miscellaneous 1963-1965*****Cal Reporters, SLATE Newsletters, and New University News* 1960-1963****SLATE ASUC Candidates circa 1962****SLATE Election Issues, Sather Gate Proposal, and Platforms circa 1962*****Cal Reporter* and Letter from SLATE circa 1963*****ASUC SPARK, The Campus Voice* circa 1963****SLATE Newsletters 1958-1962****SLATE Summer Conference 1962****SLATE Supplement to the General Catalog/ASUC Synopsis 1963-1967*****STEPS* Journal 1966*****Daily Cal* By-Laws Fall 1960****SLATE Administrative Papers and Notes circa 1961****Correspondence, ASUC and University 1961-1967****SLATE Internal Papers 1961-1965**

Carton 2, Folder 3	<b>SLATE Film and Lecture Series 1962-1965</b>
Carton 2, Folder 4-5	<b>SLATE Summer Conference 1961-1964</b>
Carton 2, Folder 6	<b>SLATE Administrative Papers and Notes circa 1961-1962</b>
Carton 2, Folder 7	<b>Robin Room Administrative Papers, Position Papers, etc. 1966-1967</b>
Carton 2, Folder 8	<b>SLATE Position Papers and Notes 1961-1965</b>
Carton 2, Folder 9-10	<b>SLATE Platform Notes and Drafts, Election Leaflets 1963-1965</b>
Carton 2, Folder 11	<b>HUAC and SLATE undated</b>
Carton 2, Folder 12	<b>SLATE Publications 1961-1968, undated</b>
Carton 2, Folder 13-14	<b>SLATE Supplement to the General Catalog 1963-1967</b>
Carton 2, Folder 15	<b>ASUC Campus Rules Committee circa 1967</b>
Carton 2, Folder 16-18	<b>Robin Room, Response to Herr Committee, Drafts. "To the Icebox" circa 1960-1967</b>
Carton 2, Folder 19	<b>ASUC Constitutions, ABC's 1958-1963</b>
Carton 2, Folder 20-21	<b>ASUC Papers 1962-1969</b>
Carton 2, Folder 22-25	<b>ASUC Constitutional Convention circa 1966</b>
Carton 2, Folder 26	<b>Student Political Parties, Activities, and Movements (Non-SLATE) circa 1964-1969</b>
Carton 2, Folder 27	<b>Graduate Coordinating Committee 1965</b>
Carton 2, Folder 28	<b>University Reform/ New University Movement Leaflets circa 1963-1968</b>
Carton 2, Folder 29	<b>Free Speech Movement 1964-1965</b>
Carton 2, Folder 30	<b>Free Student Union circa 1965</b>
Carton 2, Folder 31	<b>Farm Labor undated</b>
Carton 2, Folder 32	<b>Local Civil Rights Activities circa 1964-1965</b>
oversize_folder 1	<b>Freedom Riders Benefit June 19, 1961</b>
Carton 2, Folder 33	<b>Anti-Discrimination Leaflets undated</b>
Carton 2, Folder 34	<b>Vietnam Day Committee and Other Anti-Vietnam War Activities circa 1965</b>
Carton 2, Folder 35	<b>Student Political Activities 1963-1968</b>
Carton 2, Folder 36	<b>People's Park, Women's History, Miscellaneous 1969</b>
Carton 2, Folder 37	<b><i>The Activist</i> 1962-1963</b>
Carton 2, Folder 38	<b><i>Albatross</i> 1961-1962</b>
Carton 2, Folder 39	<b><i>The Berkeley Gate</i> 1964-1967</b>
Carton 2, Folder 40	<b><i>The VDC News</i> (Vietnam Day Committee) 1965-1966</b>
Carton 2, Folder 41	<b>Miscellaneous Student Publications 1961-1967</b>

Carton 2,  
Folder 42  
Carton 2,  
Folder 43-45  
Carton 3,  
Folder 1-26

**Center for Participant Education - Catalog 1969**

**Associated Students of University of California (ASUC), including Executive Committee Minutes 1959-Fall 1960**

**Associated Students of University of California (ASUC), including Executive Committee, Senate, Judicial Committee, and Student Conduct Committee Minutes; Budgets; Student Forums; and Election Rule Changes 1960-1966, undated**