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Oliver: 'It's not hard to sit down...and just listen'

The second woman and the first black ever elected to the office of ASUO president, Jan Oliver is a unique student politician. Oliver emphasized student involvement in the ASUO during her campaign, and has also promised to incorporate a sense of humor into her administration, something she says the last administration lacked.

"I don't believe a sense of humor would be detrimental to successfully handling student affairs," says Oliver. And, she adds, the executive should keep an open ear. "The executive should go out and find out what programs and students need. I can't talk to every student, I can only take a non-random survey. But, it's still good. It's good for the executive and it's good for students. It's not hard to sit down at a table and just listen. We do it while campaigning, but it shouldn't stop there."

Oliver shares the feeling of the past two ASUO administrations that students are consumers, and this leads to other things according to Oliver.

"If you see students as being the consumers of the services provided at the University, it's only logical that students become advocates in that area."

Fitting into the concept of students as consumer-advocates is the student role in the legislature. Oliver, who will spend this summer preparing for next winter's legislative session says she has four priorities: "getting child care off students' backs, holding down tuition, broadening financial aid eligibility and gaining student control of incidental fees." But she also says she'd open to other issues.

Oliver views the student association at the University as an extremely progressive one, classing it as one of the leaders in the nation.

"I think students at this University could give themselves a lot more credit than they do for the

approach they have taken to their educational experience."

Since taking office on June 8, Oliver has been busy choosing next year's staff. Expanding the ASUO administrative structure over what it has been the last two years, Oliver appointed four vice-presidents.

Jamie Burns, who headed the

both in the University community and within this (the ASUO) office."

Mark Cogan, who Oliver describes as "a legislative junkie," is next year's vice-president for legislative affairs. Cogan will work with the Oregon Student Lobby (OSL) as a non-voting member and will be responsible for involving students in the ASUO's legis-



Photo by Perry Gaskill

Incidental Fee Committee (IFC) during the last year, will serve as vice-president in charge of administration and finance. This is the one position mandated by the ASUO constitution, and Burns was appointed, not selected, which means his position had to be advertised and open to all. Burns will be responsible for ASUO contracts, Affirmative Action, elections and budgetary relations with ASUO programs.

Tamanika Ivie has been chosen as vice-president of programs and community affairs. According to Oliver, "Tamanika will be working with the programs as an advocate,

lative programs.

Gary Kim will be vice-president for university affairs. He will be responsible for working on any actions concerning student collective bargaining and will also coordinate the consumers guide to courses.

According to Oliver, there are still position open for next year. "We have work-study available, lobbyist positions, and we have an incredible need for volunteers."

People interested in working with the ASUO should contact Oliver or Burns in Suite 4 of the EMU, 686-3734.

by Greg Wasson

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