

Changing of the guard

Mary Hotchkiss reflects on a year in office...

By Jim Moore
Of the Emerald

A year ago the current ASUO administration took office amidst a media's delight of fanfare; there was an ex-



Mary Hotchkiss

hilarating, narrow victory in a near-record voter turnout, a costumed march to kill apathy and the celebrated tearing down of room dividers in the Executive suite.

And ASUO Pres. Mary Hotchkiss appeared to thrive on the attention as she displayed boundless energy, seemingly ready to tackle each future challenge.

But as the year's end nears and the May 25 inaugural of newly-elected ASUO Pres. Julie Davis approaches, Suite 4 has been conspicuous by the absence of Hotchkiss. Not even the recent elections stirred much activity from the student body president.

But her reduced involvement has been by design, she says.

Activities are winding down and her administration is just trying to wrap up loose ends, but more importantly, her reduced involvement allows others to be more involved, she says.

"Part of our (ASUO administration) job is as a learning experience. I've spoken out, I've learned how to do it. Now it's somebody else's turn," Hotchkiss says.

Such an attitude may seem out of character for Hotchkiss. This is the woman whose speaking abilities have grown in a year that demanded she

speak about a sign in the EMU lobby, and address the State Board of Higher Education in a plea for funds.

Whether gathering support or angering some faction, she has hardly been an apathetic student.

Even her appearance seems out of character. She now sports a short, efficient hair style, much more establishment than her former long, straight hair. Instead of an earthy, loose-fitting blouse and jeans, she attends an interview smartly dressed in an executive-like blazer, although she proudly points to rose pin on her blazer, a symbol of the Students for a Progressive Agenda.

Surely this isn't the same fiery Mary Hotchkiss that became the first SPA candidate to become ASUO president. That Hotchkiss would never shun the limelight.

But it is the same person, she says. The involvement, the speaking out, the issue-battling have been the product of the whole of the student government, not necessarily the whims of Mary Hotchkiss.

"I've been a spokesperson on issues, but it has been individuals that have carried things out, not Mary Hotchkiss carrying things out," she says.

She once said that her total time spent on the EMU sign issue was less than four hours, but the controversy the sign sparked made it seem that her time was consumed with the project. And she doesn't understand why students have not recognized the efforts and accomplishments of her staff.

"I think the quantity and quality of the work out of the office says not one person could do it," Hotchkiss says.

She smiles when reflecting on the ups and downs of her year as president, and acknowledges no defeats.

"We planned long-term goals," Hotchkiss says. And those are in place with the increased University involvement in the United States Student Association, the purchase of a micro-computer system and the recently completed comprehensive campus survey that is available for the new executive.

Now, though, the lessons and challenges of being the ASUO president are almost over and she seems to anticipate the end.

"I'm taking a break," Hotchkiss says. In June, she says she will return to her native New York state to "work as a nurse, write poetry and be a mother."

There she goes again, stepping out of character.

... while Julie Davis makes plans for the future

By John Heldt
Of the Emerald

As the school year winds to a close and her May 25 inauguration date approaches, recently elected ASUO Pres. Julie Davis is taking steps toward making her administration a reality.

One of the biggest steps is forming her staff, and part of that problem was solved Friday with the naming of Incidental Fees Committee member Marc Spence as vice president.

Spence also is a member of Davis' hiring committee that includes fellow University students Betsy Boyd, Mitch Vance, and Gary Okazaki.

"I picked these people because I thought they would be good judges of character, work well together, and select a balanced staff from the whole spectrum of students," she says.

"I'm looking for people who will work effectively with various groups and not just talk at them or to them. I want students who are excellent communicators and hard workers," Davis says.

Meanwhile, the new ASUO president is hoping to avoid many of the problems associated with the transition period by leaving the organizational framework of the executive office much the way it is.

"Some of the normal pains of a transition are being eased because I am maintaining the same office structure," she says.

Davis says one of the problems the Mary Hotchkiss administration faced last year was that of receiving little help during the transition from the outgoing administration of C.J. Balfe.

"There was no one there to ask questions and the new people had to spend a lot of time learning the ropes," she says. But Davis will work more closely with the present administration in the coming days and may even keep some of its people on her staff.

Once the transition period is over and Davis assumes power, she faces several problems and priorities.

Among those are what to do with the United States Student Association. Davis originally opposed for administrative reasons the ballot measure which asked for student funds to subsidize the USSA's activities. But in light of the measure's passage, she said her administration would support the organization as best it could.

Friday, Davis met with USSA field organizer Bob Bingaman to discuss matters concerning the organization, including its conference this summer in

Eugene, and the ASUO's role in it.

Another priority is the role of the ASUO publication, *Off the Record*, in the coming year.

"It will continue in its present form," she says, adding that the focus of the paper will be to publicize events and activities of the ASUO and also serve as a vehicle for transmitting information on such things as the student lobbying effort.

Davis says that she has questioned the publication's usefulness in the past because of its relatively small circulation, but she will support it nonetheless because "it will need some time to develop, just like anything else."

Meanwhile, Davis believes her law education may give her an edge in another priority — lobbying for funds.

"It has made me more familiar with the administrative and legislative process and (as a law student) you develop a sharper sense of timing to when and where the lobbying effort is most appropriately carried out," she says.

Other priorities she notes are increasing voter registration before the November elections and eliminating much of the student apathy on campus.

"I think there is a tremendous amount of untapped energy out there among the various groups of students," Davis says.



Julie Davis

In at least two areas, Davis will carry on where Hotchkiss is leaving off. Her administration will continue to explore the possibilities of a self-insurance program for the University and also maintain support for the South African divestiture suit.


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