

SPA candidates say they will make government visible

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

Sarah Lachkar is running for ASUO president because she sees herself as open, honest, approachable, outspoken and has been involved in the current administration.

Lachkar, currently the ASUO assistant finance coordinator, has in the past served on the Junior Panhellenic Council, held the vice presidential post on the Panhellenic Council and is active in the Sister University Project. She and running mate Jodie Mooney have been endorsed by Students for a Progressive Agenda, and Lachkar sees this involvement as not only helpful, but encouraging.



"I have worked under SPA all year. The SPA platform and ideas mirror mine," she said, adding the group provides support for candidates and members.

Lachkar sees the role of the president as spokesperson for the students, and if elected she proposes to increase the strength of the Minority Task Force, student input on child-care issues, expand Project Saferide where necessary and numerous other programs that have begun in recent years.

One problem Lachkar recognizes is the seemingly invisible nature of student government — not many students know what the government is doing and what it is about. She proposes to increase government visibility to students who don't take an active role in the process through the three publications on campus: the Oregon Daily Emerald, The Record and the Oregon Commentator.

"Another way our administration — Jodie's and mine — would be more visible to students is by being more accessible, open and willing to

talk to students about what we are doing, what's behind the reports that appear in those publications," she said. "That is not to say this has been a problem this year. The Nelson administration has worked very hard to be more visible to the students."

Lachkar also has taken into consideration the criticism the current SPA administration has faced for its involvement in international affairs.

"To provide a broad education for all students, the Executive must provide the opportunity for students to concern themselves with international relations," she said, adding she doesn't believe the current administration has sacrificed on-campus issues for issues that affect students off campus.

More than anything, Lachkar stresses communication between students in Suite 4 EMU and the general student population.

"The Executive needs to be sensitive to all student needs, not just our own. If there is a door for open communication, students feel comfortable coming into the office and asking to speak to a program director or asking a question," she said.

Mooney is currently a second-year law student and chairwoman of the Incidental Fee Committee. She received her bachelor's degree in speech communication and a certificate in law studies from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

She decided to run for the vice-presidential office for a variety of reasons, she said, but stressed commitment to various programs as being important in her decision.

"I have developed a commitment to students through my work with the fee committee to ensure that students on campus are treated equitably, to see all students are given equal opportunity to use student government and to give students a forum as diverse as possible," she said.

As Lachkar proposes,

Mooney also hopes to preserve organizations on campus that have been started recently; the mediation pilot program, Sister University Project, Latin American Support Group and the new Literary Society are all groups Mooney believes need to be supported in the upcoming months.

This is Mooney's second election as an SPA-endorsed candidate. The student political group endorsed her in last year's IFC election. SPA

preserves cultural diversity on campus and is an important part of her campaign, she said.

"All of us have similar goals — non-discrimination, affirmative action, retention of independent status for financial aid — but we all have very different backgrounds," she said. "It is really important that what we seek is diversity."

Mooney sees herself as a good administrator, a quality needed for a vice president to be successful. She believes she would

be good at working with the president and the office staff as a team and seeing that things within the office run smoothly.

She also expressed concern about the centric attitude of some students who believe the student government should only focus on issues on campus.

"I can't believe students on campus want to live in a vacuum," Mooney said, adding that issues off campus such as involvement in El Salvador can

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