

Candidates promise 'open door' policy to increase student input

By Frale de Guzman
Emerald Associate Editor

ASUO Executive candidates Andy Clark and Scott Wyckoff would like to see increased diversity, unity and student interest in student government next year.

According to Clark, a junior political science major running for ASUO president, the nature of their ticket — "Friends working together" — emphasizes the unity which he and running mate Scott Wyckoff continually stress.

"We believe that student government involves all students, not just the ASUO Executive," Clark said.

For this reason, the executives must be willing to listen to students and to spend time with the different groups and to listen to their concerns, he said. This would include frequent visits with the various campus groups and organizations.

"We want to do a 'washing' of the ASUO," Clark said. "We want to establish an administration where people can give us their input and not feel choked off because they do not fit into the agenda."

The only stipulation to this open-door policy is that people share their information and ideas with others. In this way, communication between groups would develop, stopping misunderstandings before they start, said Wyckoff, who is also a junior political science major.

"We would only be the facilitators of the discussion," he said. "We don't want to dictate what the policies or issues are. We want to go out and seek input from others to find out what they feel is important."

This need to reach out to the campus is seen in their policy statement.

"Student government shouldn't be intimidating nor should it be invisible," they said.

If elected, both candidates assured that the ASUO will be "marketed so it looks appealing."

"Time and money need to be spent informing the general student body of the issues and concerns that the ASUO Executive office may be attending to," Clark said. A possible way of getting this information out, he added, may be through the release of a "State of the ASUO" address.

In response to questions regarding their unfamiliarity with ASUO procedures, Wyckoff said that a lack of familiarity did not necessarily indicate incompetence.

Instead of being a hindrance, a lack of familiarity with the system is a plus, Wyckoff said. "It will force us to go out and seek input from others and to utilize their talents. It will force us to be inclusive instead of just paying lip service."

Both candidates, who were endorsed by the PreLaw Society, Kappa Alpha Psi and the Greek Endorsement Committee, together have a diverse background in student leadership.

Clark has coordinated office affairs for the University Housing Office, chaired the ASUO Elections Board, is a member of the AIDS Task Force and was a member of the Council of Minority Education Leadership Team.

Wyckoff helped the Housing Office enforce its drug and alcohol policies and processed residence and food service contracts. In addition, he was named in this year's Who's Who in American Colleges and received the University's Centurian Award last year.



Andy Clark and Scott Wyckoff

Four groups endorse tickets for Executive, three tab Hughes/Kirk

With the spring primaries less than a week away, members of four student groups announced their endorsements for ASUO president and vice president.

The Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance and the Black Student Union endorsed ASUO presidential candidate Tim Hughes and running mate Maureen Kirk.

The Greek Endorsement Committee favored Andy Clark and Scott Wyckoff to fill the ASUO Executive.

Members of the GTFF, an organization with 985 members, felt that political skills and experience were needed "to get things done in the ASUO Executive and to ensure that student empowerment continues to move forward," GTF Michael Dawson said.

GALA also based their selection on candidates' student government experience. GALA announced its endorsement last Thursday.

The Hughes/Kirk ticket is more "representative of the campus as a whole and they understand the issues more," said Ryan Kennedy, GALA codirector.

According to BSU President Julie Sprague, "Tim Hughes and Maureen Kirk have a long history of supporting the issues that are important to students of color. Most importantly, we feel that they have the experience necessary to fight for student rights and expand student empowerment."

The Greek Endorsement Committee, however, voted to endorse ASUO presidential candidate Andy Clark and running mate Scott Wyckoff.

"We believed that the interest of the Greek system would be further served by the Clark/Wyckoff ticket," said Aaron Felton, committee chairman.

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