

Q&A

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around the country.

This would be a student run program, you pay a \$10 membership fee at the beginning of the year and it pays for the cost of the program."

WILLIAMSON/KELTON: "The whole ordeal shows the executive needs to be more active in making sure students have a voice on committees and any type of forum where students' lives are going to be affected."

Right now, a lot of committees on campus deal with student issues that students are not invited to attend.

The committee, which looked at Amazon, was a special committee without student representatives. We're going to make sure that when these committees are formed, students are going to be considered.

Our experience in dealing with these issues is going to enable us to make the connections in Johnson Hall and say, "This is something that relates to students and is going to have an impact in student's lives. You're going to listen to students, you're going to listen to their concerns."

QUESTION: What power does the executive have in affecting cuts to tuition and financial aid? What do you think you can do?

KANTROWITZ/SCOTT: "We've never heard of a Legislature that has lowered tuition due to student lobbying efforts. The best you can do is prevent an increase. The next two years we're facing two 4 percent increases and chances are we're not going to see any decreases in tuition; it's just not going to happen."

The least we can do is stop these two increases from happening. Lobbying is very important and the University is respected in their efforts.

We'll continue with the efforts, but we think the ASUO can only do so much. You need to get the students on the street to write letters, call their congressman and bug the crap out of them so they know students care."

WILLIAMSON/KELTON: "As we've seen in the past, the ASUO at the University is respected nationwide. The ASUO executive, by being well informed on these issues, and very educated about what's happening and very up-to-date, has the power of educating our senators and their staff."

Jennifer spent a whole day educating Sen. Hatfield's Salem staff about financial aid and how it works. As soon as a staff member, a representative or a senator understands financial aid, then they don't want to cut it.

The students that take the time to understand it and tell their stories about it are really convincing. Education does make a difference."

QUESTION: What will be the first issue you work on if elected to office?

KANTROWITZ/SCOTT: "We want to work on the 'Get-In' program within the first two weeks of office. It targets freshman and sophomore students."

What we want to do is put together a booklet that describes in detail all the programs that are on campus.

We want to get it out to students before they get to campus so they can look at what type of involvement there is, how often these people meet and who to get in touch with. And then, once they get to campus, we want to do tours of the EMU and show them around because it is a scary place, and the ASUO is the scariest of them all.

We're going to have an open house in the building and have members of our staff be group leaders and tour people around every program in this building, introduce them, and then the students will decide which ones they want to get involved in."

WILLIAMSON/KELTON: "The first thing Jennifer is going to do is grant write for the community affairs position because the PFC cut that position from next year's budget."

Also, we want programs to see where the holes are in their budget's, then grant write and fund raise for the money."

We also want to hire someone over the summer to do background research on recruitment and retention of students of color and have extra money for recruiting trips, so under-represented students on this campus can go to high schools across the state and recruit minority students to the University."

Zac is going to go into the community and try to raise money to subsidize tickets for theater events, music events and cultural shows on campus. We also want to set up a community opportunity fund for the Cultural Forum so the University can start drawing some bigger name bands for concerts."

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