

ASUO: Executive implemented safety advocate position

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freeze for resident students in his budget, which was a major part of Scotten and Banfield's goals. Scotten said, however, that he will continue to work to get a tuition freeze for non-residents as well.

Beyond getting student voices heard in Salem, Scotten said, "What I think we did most effectively was organizing public awareness. We tried our very best to inform students about the issue and how they could affect the legislation."

Racial Issues and Retention

Scotten and Banfield also focused on creating programs to be more inclusive of minority students and increasing the retention rate of students of color on campus.

"I think we've done a pretty good job in our assistance with programs having to do with retention," Banfield said. "We did quite a bit of outreach to the community, especially to young students and the minority community."

"I felt like our office, and myself

included, did a lot for [reaching out to minority students]," he said. "But no matter how much we've done, we've only made a little dent. To tackle an issue of such magnitude requires a lot of time."

Scotten and Banfield began a task force to deal with issues of race and retention and to see what services are out there for students of color to utilize. Scotten said the task force found that there are a lot of academic services but no real support services.

In order to provide additional support for students of color, the ASUO was successful in creating a new position—the associate dean of student life. "I think we are going to see some improvement in retention and also in recruitment because of this position," Banfield said. "This position will allow for more social programming for the issue of retention."

During elections last spring, Banfield also spoke about the need to address racial problems on campus. Amid controversy, both Scotten and Banfield said

they feel their recent move to rope off 228 seats at the Arizona men's basketball game was a move to vocalize racial issues on campus.

"You have to bring these issues to the forefront, and our office did see [the game] as a prime opportunity to bring this issue to the forefront because it was something that had to be spoken on, something that called out for a reaction. And that obligation fell on this office," Banfield said.

"Because that was a part of our philosophy [while running for office] that we are not going to skirt the issue, we're not going to turn our backs and pretend [racial problems] are not there," he said. "We're going to say okay, let's talk about it, but before you talk about it you have to bring it to the forefront."

Along with providing more services for students of color and strengthening retention, Scotten and Banfield wanted to implement an ethnic studies program. This goal has not been achieved, but Banfield said candidates for

the professor position are being interviewed. And in the future, this goal could be achieved, Banfield said.

Campus Safety

Another main focus of Scotten and Banfield's platform was campus safety. They wanted to clearly define the student conduct code and improve campus lighting. Changes in the conduct code are still being voted on, but as far as lighting goes, nothing is moving forward, Scotten said.

Scotten and Banfield also created a new ASUO position, safety advocate, in order to specifically work on safety issues. Safety advocate Jennifer Luck has been working on making changes to the student conduct code. The proposed changes will make the conduct code more specific by "sending the message out that there is zero tolerance on this campus [for sexual misconduct]," Scotten said.

The proposed changes have to be voted on by the Student Senate before it is official, and Scotten

said he hopes the Senate will approve the changes spring term.

Luck has also been working on getting blue lights installed on top of the call boxes located all over campus to make them more useful, Scotten said.

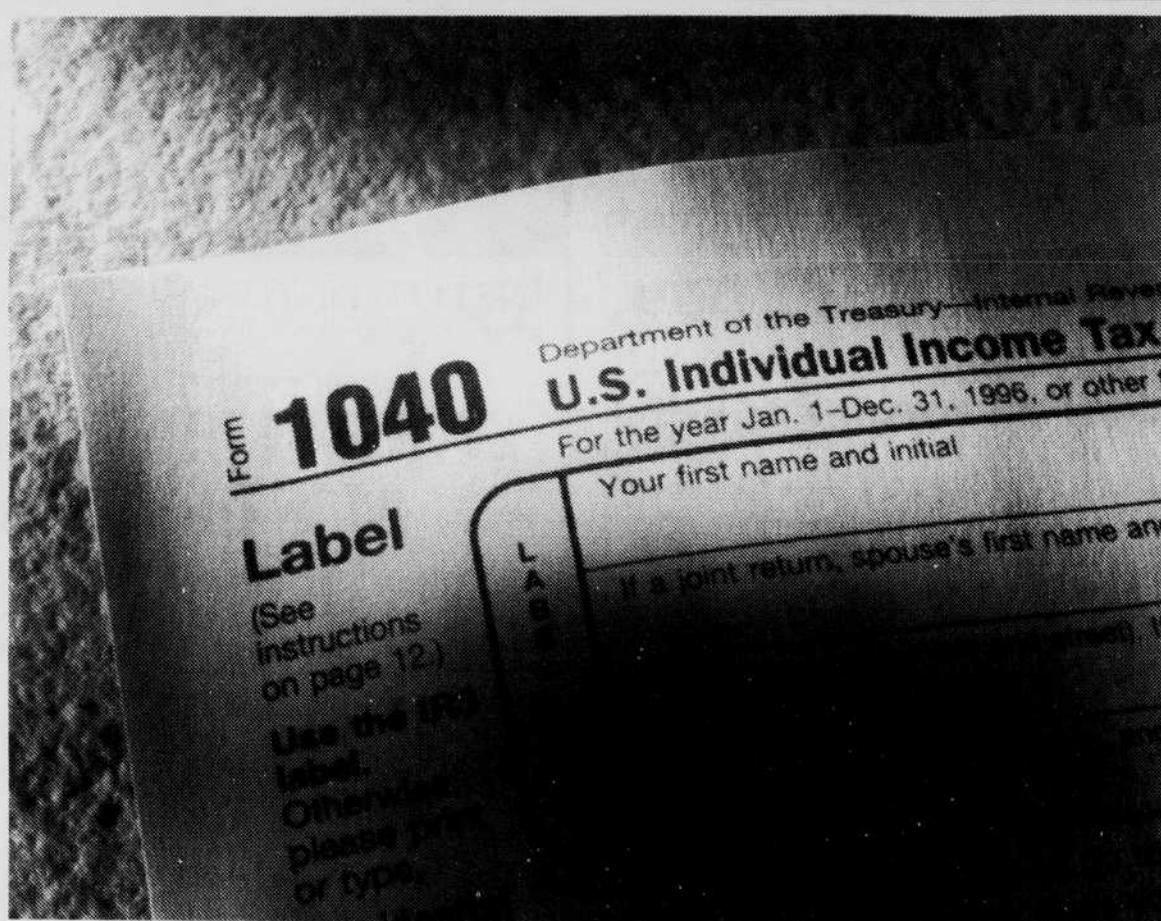
The ASUO has also worked on installing more lights on campus, but Scotten said the process has been slow.

"We've been working on lighting, but it's been a slow uphill battle. You can't even begin to imagine the bureaucracy on campus surrounding lighting issues," he said. "To be totally frank, not a lot of serious action has taken place on this. We've just been running into a lot of dead ends," Scotten continued.

Banfield said a lot has been done to build coalitions between groups, allowing them to work together. Luck and Greek advocate Melissa Freund have been working together to provide programs like Greeks Against Rape. Also,

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