

Changes: Incidental fees cost students \$5 per term in 1907

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alumni and the University president.

Spirit was admired at the University of Oregon. It was so important to campus life that the student body got to elect a "yell leader" who would "conduct the official rooting" at sporting events.

The Executive Council had a definitive role at the University by the 1920s.

The ASUO began to be seen as an organization to promote student activities, but it didn't have the budget or the number of programs the ASUO oversees today.

The ASUO president did not have a vote in the Executive Council unless there was a tie, and the University president hand-picked many of the appointed council members.

Up until the 1970s, the ASUO was not an autonomous student organization. There was always faculty or administrative influence on the board during the decision making processes, Hunter said.

In the early 1980s, students refined their government so that non-students, such as faculty and administrators, could not vote on student government decisions.

Daniel Williams, ASUO president in 1961-62, oversaw a more traditional student government. Today he is vice president of University administration.

"I was one of the last bonfire rally presidents," he said, "and the structure of the student government was different.



Members from the student body from 1897 pose for a group photo. Campus activities were an important part of the University experience.

"I'd do it again. It was one of the reasons I'm doing what I do today."

The ASUO continued to expand its services to students throughout the 1970s. Programs included childcare facilities, student-initiated course programs, ESCAPE, the International Education Center and other student projects. The ASUO also developed a shared governance with the administration over student incidental fees.

University students had a different way of expressing their political beliefs during this time period.

"It's really blossomed since the 1970s when student attitudes changed, and students could

support alternative services and programs for social change," Hunter explained.

Lester Fordham, for example, ran for office with the slogan "PEACE," and Orbie Scott and Jacqueline Minnis ran in the 1971 election with a fearful statement: "The greatest danger facing the University right now is the coming of a dictator state like the one described by George Orwell in 1984 where Big Brother is always watching you." As the politics of the time became more radical, so did the platforms for student government. Students in the 1970s were concerned with ending the war in Vietnam and stopping pollution and oppression on the other side of the world.

Important Presidents of ASUO

- 1899-1900: Clifton N. McArthur: first United States Representative from ASUO
- 1904-1905: Frederick Steiwer: First U.S. Senator from ASUO
- 1943-1944: Nancy Ames: First Female ASUO President
- 1962-1963: Neil E. Goldschmidt: First U.S. Presidential Cabinet Member and First Governor from ASUO
- 1971-1972: Iain E. More: First Foreign ASUO President
- 1976-1977: Janice A. Oliver: First Black Female President
- 1978-1979: Ramon R. Herrera: First Latino President
- 1989-1990: C. Andrew Clark: First Black Male President
- 1992-1993: Robert Lee: First Asian-American President

Source: University Archive

Today the ASUO is in charge of more than 80 programs. As the student body began to grow and the number of programs increased, the budget for ASUO programs jumped into the millions.

Times have changed. In 1907, student fees were \$5 per term, which were allocated to football, baseball, basketball, track, glee club, student publications and other miscellaneous fees. Today, incidental fees cost students about \$400 a year.

"We use student fees to lobby for students in Congress, legislation and in the administration," said ASUO President Bill Miner. He works about 40 hours a week to maintain student programs

and protect student interests.

The ASUO now actively fights for students by maintaining a tuition freeze, keeping students on a health plan and seeking more student control over building fees.

"Today we are recognized by the University as the voice of the students, thanks to the many students and ASUO leaders that preceded us," said Miner. "If we had to fight to be respected now, nothing would get done.

"I want students to think of the ASUO as an activist organization instead of a large bureaucracy. The ASUO should have an equal voice in tuition, curriculum and the conduct code."

Miner plans to open the EMU Amphitheater in March, an event intended to honor 100 years of student activism. He said he wants students to organize around social issues and become one voice.

The ASUO has already fought for students to get their grades mailed to them, abolished the 10-cent printing regulation in the computer labs and filed a motion to defeat the University Senate's attempt to stop students from receiving credit for classes in more than one group of requirements. Another goal is to increase the hours at Knight Library so that students can research and study longer.

Claude E. Robinson didn't know what the future held for student government back in 1923 when he wrote: "Opportunity awaits you on every hand, and it will yield its fruits in abundance as you prove your worth."

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