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# ASUO plans for campaigns, upcoming special session

■ Rachel Pilliod, Ben Buzbee and the rest of the summer staff are hard at work making plans for the coming months

By Kara Cogswell  
Oregon Daily Emerald

In their first few weeks on the job, ASUO President Rachel Pilliod and Vice President Ben Buzbee are getting to be known as the early-rising executives.

Most days, Pilliod is in the office by 6 a.m. Buzbee's usually in by 7 a.m.

With an upcoming legislature special session, a long list of campaigns to plan for and just six staff members for the summer, the student government leaders are going to need that energy during the next few months.

On Friday, the leaders met with Provost John Moseley, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Anne Leavitt and other administrators to discuss what the University is going to ask for during the next legislative special session, expected to be called this month to reassess the 2001-03 budget.

Pilliod said student leaders at the meeting, including State Affairs Coordinator Adam Petkun, who will be on staff this summer, listened to administrators but decided "to hold their cards" until they know what's going to be on the table.

"Because there are so many things that are going to come into play, we were not yet ready to speak on behalf of students," Pilliod said. "Until you know what the cuts are, you don't know how many students are going to be adversely affected."

She said University administrators, who "feel like their hands are tied," are planning to ask for a 1 percent tuition increase for every 1 percent cut from the budget. They're also talking about slowing growth

by raising admission standards.

As more information about the special session comes in, ASUO leaders will continue to talk with administrators and representatives from the Oregon Student Association to decide what they will lobby for. If a special session is held, they plan to bring groups of students to the state capitol to meet with legislators.

"Even though we're breaking for the summer, we still want to have a really strong presence in Salem," Pilliod said.

Along with the special session, another issue that's taken priority for ASUO in the past couple of weeks is the proposed increase in alcohol fines currently being considered by the Eugene City Council.

ASUO opposes mandatory minimum fines and supports the use of diversion programs. Pilliod said ASUO staff members have organized students to testify at the council meeting today about their experiences with diversion programs and the court system.

ASUO staff are also planning campaigns for the coming year, including the "red flag for safety" campaign. Pilliod said the concept for the campaign is that drivers of University vehicles will keep in touch with each other, and when an incident reported to the Department of Public Safety occurs, each vehicle will put out a red flag.

Students who see the red flag will know that an incident has occurred and they can check an as-yet-to-be-established source such as a phone hotline or the DPS Web site to find more information about the incident. Pilliod said this system, which they hope to have in place by the fall, is intended to get information to students quickly and make attacks well known.

"The awareness it raises will hopefully deter crime to some extent," she said.

As a first step in the campaign,

they have arranged for DPS to add the ASUO Executive to the list of administrators and University departments that receive e-mail bulletins about incidents that occur, allowing students to receive information directly from the department.

ASUO staff are also planning a big push to increase student voter turnout in the general election with the fall Get Out the Vote campaign. During the summer, ASUO staff plan to go to community events as well as freshman orientation sessions to begin registering students to vote.

Although multicultural advocates Eduardo Morales and Madeleine Melton won't be on staff for the summer, during the past few weeks the executives have been working with them to develop plans for a campus diversity education campaign.

Buzbee is finishing up contracts between the ASUO and fee-funded groups and is continuing to work on plans for the new leadership development program.

With a limited budget, they only had money to pay for six summer staff positions. Five students they've hired for next year will work this summer. Megan Hughes, the 2001-02 Community Outreach Coordinator, is also staying on for the summer to finish work on an ASUO renter's guide. If contract issues with the publisher of the guide can be settled in time, ASUO expects to have the publication out by the end of the summer.

ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton, who has seen several student administrations come and go, said it's difficult to predict what incoming leaders will achieve, but Pilliod and Buzbee have a talented staff and the potential to succeed.

"It's always hard to know how things will shape up until fall hits," she said. "But it certainly seems like they're going to spend a lot of the summer planning, which should help them a lot when it comes to the fall."

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## News brief

### Frohnmayr to present Presidential Medal

University President Dave Frohnmayr will present Bernice Ingalls Staton with a Presidential Medal during a pre-commencement brunch Saturday at McArthur Court.

Staton wins the high honor for making a \$10 million commitment to helping needy students attend the University. It's the largest scholarship donation in the University's history.

"With one stroke, she is helping 100 young people each year transform their lives, allowing them to pursue and even enlarge their own visions of what they might be able to accomplish in their lifetimes," Frohnmayr said in a press release. "Her gift and her example will enrich the lives of the entire community."

Staton herself only attended college for two years because of financial hardship, so she said she wants to help those who couldn't attend without such aid.

Staton's donation has already helped pay for 100 students' expenses this year.

Past winners of the Presidential Medal are Thomas Autzen, Earle M. Chiles and Charles H. Lundquist. The University awards the medal to people who have demonstrated a commitment to higher education through extraordinary support.

—Serena Markstrom