



ONE OF THESE STUDENTS WILL BE YOUR PRESIDENT: ASUO EXECUTIVE

The president controls programs' budgets and is a voice for students

BY PARKER HOWELL & STEVEN NEUMAN
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER & MANAGING EDITOR

Responsible for managing ASUO programs and acting as the official voice for students, the ASUO president, head of the Executive branch, is one of the most powerful and visible elected student government officials. The president has the final say on the budgets of the ASUO's major committees, totaling more than \$10 million, and sets the ASUO's political agenda.

PART 5 OF 5

Wednesday: Programs Finance Committee

Thursday: Student Senate

Friday: EMU Board

Monday: Athletic Department Finance Committee and Associated Students' Presidential Advisory Council

Today: ASUO Executive

Each year, the president selects students to fill positions within the executive and ASUO student committees.

Within the executive, the president appoints the vice president and selects about 17 administrators to oversee different aspects of student life, including safety, housing and multicultural advocacy.

The president also appoints justices to the Constitution Court, one member of the Athletic Department Finance Committee, one member of the EMU Board of Directors and one member of the Programs Finance Committee. The president is also responsible for filling vacant spots on the ASUO Student Senate.

As the administrator of the ASUO and representative of the student population, the president also sets policy goals for student government, both on and off campus. This year, ASUO President Adam Petkun prioritized finishing the work of the previous executive by lobbying the Eugene City Council for a housing code to ensure renters' rights. He also undertook a campaign to eliminate scheduling fees that forced students to forfeit tuition. Petkun continues to lobby in Salem for a tuition freeze.

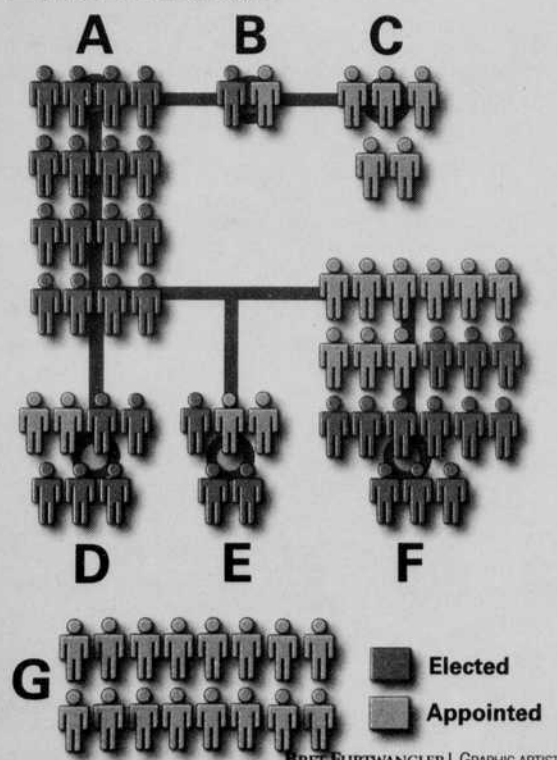
The President can also affect the funding of student groups by setting budget recommendations for the ADFC, PFC and EMU Board before each undergoes its budget process. The president also wields veto power over final budget decisions by the Senate.

This year the executive vetoed funding benchmarks for the ADFC and the PFC to allow the Senate to reconsider what Finance Coordinator Mike Martell called a "disparity" in the manner in which their budgets were decided.

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ASUO structure



(A) Student Senators; (B) Executive: President and Vice President; (C) Constitution Court Justices; (D) Programs Finance Committee; (E) Athletic Department Finance Committee; (F) EMU Board of Directors; (G) Associated Students' Presidential Advisory Council

THE CANDIDATES



Anthony Caruso
President

Robbie McEachern
Vice-President

Age: 20
Major: Economics
Hometown: Portland, Ore.
Year: Junior

Age: 20
Major: Finance
Hometown: Milwaukee, Ore.
Year: Junior

Platform summary: Caruso said he and McEachern believe the budget has gotten out of control, and students are unhappy that their \$5 million-plus in student fees has been overspent by 10 percent. He said if they step in with their experience, they'll be able to do it right the first time. He said he hopes that through a better budget, he can improve activities on campus and do better things for the community. He added that he's hoping to fix the PFC by stepping in and helping to lead with experience and mathematical know-how. On statewide issues, Caruso said he hopes to focus on getting out into the community and doing some lobbying. He said he knows other candidates are promising to do things like lowering tuition, but the only way to do that is to cut the University's budget. He said the best solution is to lobby for something better. He hopes to be persistent and show that good things can come out of the University.

Job qualifications: Caruso said he and McEachern have been on the executive council in his fraternity, Theta Chi, for three years each. Caruso was student body president of his high school, risk manager at Theta Chi and just finished his second year as vice president of the fraternity. McEachern was senior president of his high school, risk manager at Theta Chi and recently became the fraternity's president. Caruso added that McEachern was previously Theta Chi's social chairman and was in charge of allocating a portion of the fraternity's budget and, therefore, has experience in budget allocation. He said because they had both been risk managers of their fraternity, they have experience with holding people accountable.

Why they want the job: Caruso said he's interested in the job because he hopes to improve the University by providing a better budget and better activities. He said he picked up a newspaper, saw that the ASUO was having money-allocation problems and knew that things could be done better. He added that through success in the ASUO, he hopes to build respect for both himself and the University. McEachern echoed Caruso in saying that their decision to run was based on their belief that they could do a better job with the ASUO.

What it takes to be accountable: Caruso said the ASUO's actions on the Summer retreat deface what the ASUO stands for, but that otherwise, the ASUO has done a fantastic job. He hopes to improve communication with everyone in the ASUO office. He said he feels that if he can establish better communication and respect within the ASUO, there will be fewer problems with accountability because people will take it upon themselves to be responsible. On whether the ASUO was justified in finding an alternative punishment for re-paying funds after the Summer retreat, Caruso said the ASUO could have done better to take penance, but he doesn't really know enough about the student government to take a clear stance on the situation. He added that it may have helped if the senate did something to make students feel reassured.

Staff organization to reflect priorities: Caruso and McEachern hope that by working with the outgoing executive, they can figure out how to best organize their staff. They said if the new executive can utilize the experience of the outgoing one, it will be able to assemble a staff they can work with more effectively.



Jacob Daniels
President

Adi Cargni
Vice-President

Age: 19
Major: Political science
Hometown: Creswell, Ore.
Year: Junior

Age: 19
Major: Undeclared
Hometown: Tualatin, Ore.
Year: Sophomore

Platform summary: Daniels said they want to fix the budget, represent every student and have a zero-tolerance policy for corruption and abuse of power. In fixing the budget, he said they are going to give groups incentives to raise their own funds, perhaps through benchmarks or competition with similar groups at Oregon State University. The programs administrator would also work with Eugene businesses to help get them involved.

He also said they want to give more money to legal advocacy services because government is supposed to protect students. Also, they will have a campaign subsidy to reduce the cost of campaigning so students who aren't rich or well-connected will also have the opportunity to run.

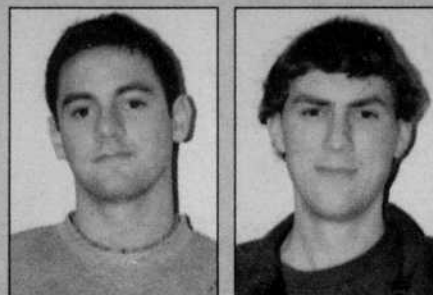
Lastly, they are not going to have self-imposed penalties when somebody in ASUO violates a rule. Daniels said, adding that the violator should be removed from office. Cargni said they want to bring accountability back to the ASUO, adding that right now it seems corrupt. She wants to see students approve of everything the ASUO Executive is doing. Also, they want to bring an outside perspective into the ASUO, she said. Daniels said the ASUO is an exclusive organization in which ASUO students don't understand the climate on campus outside student government. Cargni said she felt like she had no idea what was happening in student government last year and she didn't vote, and she wants to open up the ASUO next year.

Job qualifications: Daniels said he has been vice president, eminent preceptor, social chair, recruitment chair and pledge class president for the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He is a charter member of Pi Sigma Alpha, political science honor society member and political science peer advisor. He is also a member of the National Society for Collegiate Scholars and of the Freemasons. Last year, he was appointed interfraternity vice president of social issues. He is involved with the ASUO's Community Internship Program and has a 4.07 GPA. Cargni said she got a 4.15 GPA. She said she was junior and senior class president for her high school, which entailed looking at budgets, allocating funds and setting up community service activities. She said she has a lot of passion and experience representing her school. In college she joined a sorority and in her freshman year was appointed as a guard, she said. Now, she is an assistant chaplain and is working her way toward chaplain. She said she is also good at juggling things and accomplishing her task.

Why they want the job: Daniels said since high school he's wanted to be ASUO president. He was thinking about running for a senate position but decided the system wasn't working, he said, adding that current ASUO President Adam Petkun did a good job but he couldn't fix the corruption in the Programs Finance Committee or the events on the Summer retreat. He said he wants get students who normally wouldn't care involved in student government, which is why he hasn't campaigned too much toward groups. Cargni said she didn't know much about the ASUO when she first came to the University, but she really wants to jump in and make a difference now.

What it takes to be accountable: Daniels said a zero-tolerance policy and expelling rule-breakers from student government is the best way to ensure accountability. Cargni said the best way to ensure accountability is to elect people who are accountable in the first place.

Editor's note: Time expired before the Emerald could ask Daniels and Cargni how staff organization will reflect priorities.



Peter Flier
President

Christopher Haak
Vice-President

Age: 19
Major: Sociology
Hometown: Lafayette, Calif.
Year: Junior

Age: 20
Major: History
Hometown: Corvallis, Ore.
Year: Sophomore

Platform Summary: Flier said the long and short of his platform is spending more wisely. He said that money is being wasted on programs that nobody shows up for. He would like to provide funding for programs that people actually participate in.

Haak said that they would like to have a multiple-day event that students, as well as the outside community, could participate in as an effort to bring the two closer together.

Flier said he also believes that programs need more money to advertise with. He found by talking with students that they just weren't aware of a lot of the programs. Many didn't even know there's an election going on right now, or that there is even a school president. Flier sees this as a problem. He said that he is entirely for cultural diversity and he knows that the University has been focusing on that as of late.

Haak said they want to keep student tickets to games at the same level and increase lighting at night on and around campus. Areas that they said they would like to put more light include in front of the Knight Library, along East 13th Avenue and by the Autzen Foot Bridge.

Job qualifications: Both Flier and Haak said that they were heavily involved with Boy Scouts of America, both making it to Eagle Scout. They both said that they learned a lot of leadership skills with these experiences. Haak said he was Service Advice Chief. Flier said that he helped out a lot with the community he was in.

Flier said that when he was the president of his fraternity's pledge class, he made sure that no money was spent out of pocket with only one day of fundraising.

Why they want the job: Flier said why he wants the job has a lot to do with their platform. Haak said that he thinks they'll be good at it because they don't have preconceived ideas about how it is supposed to be run, so they can go in and do it how they like.

What it takes to be accountable: In light of the Summer retreat, Flier said that he thinks programs such as that should be cut. Haak agrees that the things learned at leadership retreats can easily be learned on campus, in meetings. They propose better communication between board members as a solution. Haak said self-regulation is needed.

Flier said that he thinks students have a right to know where their money is going without having to go find it themselves. He wonders why an audit of senate spending doesn't go out in one of the many mass mailings that students receive. He said that students don't realize that there are millions of dollars sitting there that the senate is just messing around with. He also thinks that if they did know more about it they might want to become more involved.

Staff organization to reflect priorities: Flier said he would like to spread out his staff. He would get an idea of what everyone is looking at, not just one demographic. He said that he is for trying to split between women and men, and the clubs and organizations that they are involved with. He said he would like to have people he doesn't know on his board. Flier said that he would like to have applications for positions and try to get a better idea of the diversity, while it might not be ethnic, that the University does have. He said that there are a lot of different people on campus and their ideas matter.

Haak said that they would hire people for the new activities that they would like to start.



Evan Geier
President

David Goward
Vice-President

Age: 20
Major: Business
Hometown: Gladstone, Ore.
Year: Junior

Age: 20
Major: Accounting
Hometown: Salem, Ore.
Year: Senior

Platform summary: Geier and Goward said the overarching theme of their platform is integrity, holding people accountable, like they have done in the Residence Hall Association. Geier said they are both honors business students with strong financial backgrounds. They intend to increase communication with student organizations by getting out of the office and into the University community. Goward said they believe communicating ASUO activities with the campus community is very important. Geier and Goward said they intend to post all budgets online for easier student access and detail each budget so students know where each dollar of their incidental fees is going. They are said they are going to post Executive recommendations online so student groups will know before the Programs Finance Committee hearings what their recommendation is. They said they also want to work on education by working with state lawmakers to tap into a \$200 million surplus that could possibly lead to a tuition freeze for University students. They want to increase access to scholarships and grants and institute a tuition freeze. Goward said they want to build relationships within the campus community, citing a hostile atmosphere after the controversy surrounding the Oregon Commentator. Goward also said they seek to improve relationships with other schools in the United States, adding that Geier has worked with other student senators around the country in his work on the RHA.

Job qualifications: Geier said he currently represents 3,200 students nationally with the Resident Hall Association position and is also a finance chair. He said he helped balance the RHA budget and bring in additional funds for the residence halls. Goward said he is involved with three student groups and said this knowledge of groups at the ground level has prepared him to work with other student groups. He said he has handled a large budget in the past and that his education supports this position.

Why they want the job: Geier said they want to set a precedent for new things that can be long-term to help the student government. He said he believes there is a lot that can be done on-campus and off-campus to represent students by working with various student groups and organizations to make a better campus life for students. He said the executive is the best place to be to work for the community and students and get their voices heard. He wants to increase involvement by getting awareness out within the student population and changing apathy towards the ASUO.

What it takes to be accountable: Geier and Goward said consequences need to be set up in advance of any event and that those consequences need to be swift and severe. They intend to have all students involved with retreats or events sign a form reminding them of these consequences. They also said they will make the student body aware of any infractions when ASUO officials break state or University laws or policies. Geier also said they would definitely pay back the money if a University or state law were violated on a retreat. Goward said they follow guidelines. For example, they canceled an RHA retreat, paid back the money for it and the people suffered the consequences.

Staff organization to reflect priorities: Geier and Goward said they intend to bring their staff together to let them know the issues and platform so they are all working together toward the same goal. They also said they intend to hire from outside the ASUO to create a more diverse student government that reflects the entire University.

Staff organization to reflect priorities: Geier said they plan to increase the involvement and outreach within the staff. They want to let the staff know the issues, their platform and work with the culture within ASUO to foster and increase relationships. Geier said. Goward said they also want to hire from outside the ASUO. They want to recruit students "from every area that we can find people who are committed," he said. He said he wants to create an ASUO built on diversity.



Nick Hudson
President

Allison Sprouse
Vice-President

Age: 20
Major: Political science
Hometown: Beloit, Wisc.
Year: Junior

Age: 20
Major: Human physiology
Hometown: Aloha, Ore.
Year: Junior

Platform summary: Hudson said the team's platform is "Ride the Wave of Change." He said CHANGE stands for Community Collaboration, Health and Safety, Affordability, New Opportunities, Group Support and Educational and Student Rights. In "New Opportunities," Hudson said they will focus on providing leadership opportunities for students, partnering with Eugene School District 4J, providing a leadership conference on campus and working with the Alumni Association, the student alumni relations board, the Eugene City Council and the administration to create homecoming activities of which students can be proud. Sprouse said they will also focus on health and safety by advocating for more lighting on campus, more emergency call-boxes and cohesiveness in the alcohol policy. She said they feel the Department of Public Safety's current policy of ticketing students on campus for minor in possession when they call in alcohol poisoning is not necessarily a good policy because students may hesitate to call in fear of being penalized. Hudson said they will also work on students' educational rights and plan to have a campaign to inform students about their rights. They also want to work on affordability, accountability with the incidental fee and advocating for a tuition freeze at the state legislature.

Job qualifications: Hudson said he has been involved in many facets of student life, including being an ASUO legislative intern, an IntroDUCtion leader, an Athletic Department Finance Committee executive appointee and an ASUO social science major senator. He is also president of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. He has been involved in the International Student Orientation and works for the Office of International Programs.

Sprouse said she has been an ASUO multicultural advocate intern and a programs coordinator intern. She was also a student fundraiser for the annual giving program and learned a lot about the need for funding at the University.

Why they want the job: Hudson said they want to provide tangible benefits to students. He said some students have told him they sometimes do not see the tangible benefits the ASUO provides. Sprouse said a lot of the things they have planned in their platform are feasible.

What it takes to be accountable: Sprouse said there should be a strict code of conduct and consequences for those who violate the code. Hudson said student leaders should realize they have a responsibility to do what they were elected to do and fulfill promises made to students. He said the retreats were important for proper training regarding the incidental fee and viewpoint neutrality.

Staff organization to reflect priorities: Hudson and Sprouse said they plan to provide a liaison to the Career Center, the Multicultural Center and the Mentoring Program. Hudson said they will also have a focus on legislative issues. He said they want to hire highly motivated, committed, qualified individuals and have an executive that represents the University's diversity. Sprouse said they also want a well-versed accounting advisor to deal with budgeting issues. Hudson said they will hire a programs administrator, something this year's ASUO executive did not have. He said part of their platform is to provide support to groups and a programs administrator would help do that.



Ashley Rees
President

Jael Anker-Lagos
Vice-President

Age: 19
Major: Political science
Hometown: Portland, Ore.
Year: Sophomore

Age: 20
Major: Accounting, economics and Spanish
Hometown: Portland, Ore.
Year: Sophomore

Platform summary: Rees and Anker-Lagos said they are looking to "shine the light on campus," strengthen students, improve campus climate and advocate for affordable education. Rees and Anker-Lagos want all course syllabi to be available online before the beginning of the term and course evaluations to be more comprehensive and easier to access. They want to improve campus safety by creating a program that would provide students with someone they can call to walk them home if they don't want to call a ride service. They said accountability is a major part of their platform, and they are looking for greater accountability, not just within the ASUO, but with the administration's efforts with its diversity plan and with itemization of student resource fees for departments.

Job qualifications: Rees has worked in the ASUO as a legislative intern, co-legislative associate and is currently the federal affairs coordinator. Anker-Lagos has been working with the Oregon Students of Color Association since her freshman year and served on the Programs Finance Committee this year. She is also on the diversity advisory committee. Rees said their experience in the ASUO and with student groups has allowed them to see "first hand what works, what we can change and how to make those changes."

Why they want the job: Rees said their experience working with the ASUO and with campus student groups will help them because they are able to represent the different interests on campus. Rees said their experience will enable them to advocate for students "and actually get our platform issues won," something she said they are very excited about. Anker-Lagos said they understand it takes a long time to learn everything in the office and said their years with the ASUO have shown them how the ASUO works and how to make necessary changes.

What it takes to be accountable: Anker-Lagos said the first thing to do is avoid having situations in which rules are violated. She said the ASUO needs to make sure all members and programs are aware of the rules by having them sign a contract so that they can be held accountable for their actions. Rees said they want to have a contract because they feel student leaders should want to live up to a higher set of standards. She said they want the contract to list the expectations of behavior and the consequences if they're not met and have it signed at the beginning of the year and again before going on a retreat or similar activity. Rees said accountability is a big part of their platform and they will be pushing for greater accountability from the administration and from members of the ASUO. Anker-Lagos said they want to make sure the campus is accessible to all students at all times regardless of their race or gender identity.

Staff organization to reflect priorities: Rees said they want to have a legislative associate to continue working on the tuition freeze and maintain advocacy on that issue. They also want to maintain outreach positions to continue to advocate for student rights and make sure students stay informed about the changes that are being done to the student conduct code and have input. Anker-Lagos said they want to continue outreach for past victories such as the housing standards passed by City Council earlier this year. She said they have talked a great deal about having a chief of staff overlook the entire ASUO staff. Rees said they will hire a programs administrator and maintain positions that have been valuable this year.

READ MORE ONLINE

For full transcripts of candidate interviews, visit www.dailyemerald.com.



Adam Walsh
President

Kyla Coy
Vice-President

Age: 21
Major: History and political science
Hometown: Eugene, Ore.
Year: Junior

Age: 20
Major: Political science and religious studies
Hometown: Eugene, Ore.
Year: Junior

Platform summary: Walsh and Coy said the first thing they want to do is create a better connection to the Eugene community by creating a liaison position between the city government and the ASUO. Walsh said that would ensure student voices are heard on all issues and would ensure student views and concerns. They also want to create a partnership between the University and the Chamber of Commerce to increase the number of job opportunities and internships in Eugene available to University students. They want to restrict the growth of the incidental fee and create a system that encourages more fundraising by student groups. Walsh said they want to change the system so that if the Programs Finance Committee encounters spending problems there will be a set way to proportionally redistribute money. They are also looking to implement roll-over meal points for students living in the residence halls. "They pay for them, they should get to keep them," Walsh said, referring to the current policy in the residence halls that eliminates unused meal points at the end of each week.

Job qualifications: Walsh ran for City Council last year and currently serves on the board of directors for the West University Neighbors association. He is also a presynch committee person for the Democratic party of Lane County. Coy said she has been involved in city politics since she was 16. She said she has worked on several political campaigns and completed a number of political internships, leaving her with a bank of knowledge about Eugene's political scene.

Why they want the job: Coy said she wants to make it easier to be a student. With the incidental fee rising, she said, more students are finding it harder to pay all the necessary fees to go to school. Walsh said they have a platform that is open to all students. He said past platforms have failed to garner interest from students either because they didn't deal with enough issues or because they focused on issues that weren't tangible. "Everything on our platform is tangible," Walsh said. Coy said their ideas can really affect students by creating better internships and other opportunities. Walsh said their ideas aren't just things for the short term, but that "they're things that are going to affect students for years to come."

What it takes to be accountable: Walsh said the best way to ensure accountability is "to have a highly visible executive and highly visible student government." He said there's no structure that can be put in place to ensure student leaders do the right thing all the time, "but what we can have is high visibility and make the promise that when something does go wrong that we'll right that wrong." Walsh said ASUO should have repaid the money that was spent on the Summer trip despite the fact that the trip was seen as productive by some. The ASUO should "have returned the money as a show of good faith to the entire student body," Walsh said. Walsh and Coy said they are looking to promote accountability from city officials through the creation of the liaison position.

Staff organization to reflect priorities: Walsh said they want their staff to reflect all the diverse opinions on campus. They want people from all parts of the country and from all over the world to work in the office to bring not only ethnic diversity but diversity of life experiences as well. Coy said the University's reputation as an overly liberal campus is seen as threatening to some students who otherwise might want to be involved. She said they will welcome those people and listen to their opinions.

In its election profiles, the Emerald will only feature candidates in contested races.

INTERVIEWS BY EMILY SMITH, MORIAH BALINGIT, SHELDON TRAVER, AND

ISHA YAHYA, JARED PABEN, ADAM CHERRY & MEGHANN M. CUNIFF