



Executive Fulfillment of Duties

August 20, 2019

To: The Members of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon

Hello! I hope that all has been well, and summer has been superb and safe. I'm going to start by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as Student Body President for this up and coming year. It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to a new academic year and to begin my term in office as your ASUO President. Chief of Staff, Hibo Abtidon and I have spent the summer in Eugene diligently preparing for the eventful year ahead of us. Below, you will find our goals for the upcoming year. We're excited to share with you our intended annual agenda and accountability expectations.

We are here for you and look forward to representing students at large to the best of our ability by getting to know you! Please become a part of campus-wide conversations. Participate in ASUO social media via Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter to stay up to date on what we are doing and visit our office in the Erb Memorial Union as often as you can!

Document Purpose

The ASUO Constitution calls upon the ASUO President to "establish and publish his or her own criteria for fulfillment of duties." This information is in addition to the duties outlined in the ASUO Constitution and those published in the ASUO Executive Cabinet Member Responsibilities Document.

As your elected officials, we ran on the goals of empowering student voices and autonomy through tuition engagement, access to mental health, and fair student pay in regards to livable wages/benefits. We want to ensure that all students, specifically marginalized communities have the right and opportunity to succeed as well as thrive on campus. During your time at UO, I hope you realize that ASUO is a resource tailored specifically to meet your needs! It is our duty to advocate for and empower students to make our university a better place for all. We need students just like you to get involved in the process and make your voices heard. It is our collective responsibility to play an active role in bettering the community around us.

As student leaders and organizers, we know how critical it is to ensure that students are well informed on campus issues and that students have a voice to raise concerns and solutions. We understand the strong power of organizing. ASUO will ensure that student voices resonate with our statewide legislatures and that students have a strong presence in Salem during the short legislative session. This will allow us to advocate for policies that will be in the best interest of students and remind the State of Oregon why it's important to fund higher education. This will include lobbying legislators as well as working with stakeholders and decision makers on our campus to further our advocacy efforts. Although we do not hold the power to control tuition on campus, we do have the capability to influence those policy makers' decisions by forming strong campus coalitions of students who refuse to be ignored in regards to the various issues on campus.

I-Fee & Food Security

As your student government, ASUO prioritizes the fact that each and every one of you hold agency and power. Every contribution to the Student Incidental Fee covers various services such as SafeRide, your Lane Transit District (LTD) bus pass, and raffle football/basketball game tickets. As a student you also fund over 200 student groups and student unions. As your elected officials and student leaders, we understand the need to properly represent the students' collective needs and interests. On numerous occasions we have heard from various students, friends, and community members about how Food insecurity is an ongoing challenge that students face and how important resources like the food pantry are. ASUO will continue to strengthen the food pantry, building upon the work of previous administrations. Will increase size, capacity, and availability of the food pantry. We will also work to improve its location and accessibility. We want to continue strengthening great food security programs such as the Produce Drop, Ducks Feeding Ducks, Ducks Leftover Textover, Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) Enrollment events, and the Cooking Classes in partnership with Food for Lane County will be the focus of our fortification.

Fair Student Pay

This year's Administrative Cabinet is dedicated to improving our current stipend model. We want to continue working with and recognizing the various communities here on campus in the fight towards an equal pay and proper benefits. These communities include but are not limited to the UO Campus Labor Council (CLC), United Academics (AAUP/AFT Local 3209), the Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation (GTFF) AFT Local 3544), the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Sub local 085 of Local 503).

Tuition & Tuition Engagement

In regard to tuition, despite the fact that we have a short legislative season, we still have a long year ahead of us. My Administrative Cabinet ran on the promise that we would work to ensure that we inform and engage students with not only tuition updates but the tuition setting processes. We want to work on bringing awareness around tuition in addition to the breakdown of what tuition is. Once again social media is a tactic that we'll be using to do just that in addition the workshops and tuition form meetings we'll be holding this coming school year. The ASUO Executive is working on continuing as the previous administration did to ensure that we hold UO admin accountable by following HB 4141, which stipulates that the Tuition and Fee Advisory Board must include student seats and voices in the tuition-setting process. To ensure our presence in the tuition and budget-making process, our student seats will be comprised of two student representatives from ASUO, two students from historically marginalized communities, and two students in graduate school. This will be a significant improvement, considering that only five years ago, Tuition & Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) was a closed-door conversation and students were not allowed in, and now, we are ensuring that we have more than a seat at the table. We are securing rooms and allowing our voices as students to be amplified in these tuition-setting processes.

Mental Health

When you hear about college, it's often described as the time of your life. The ASUO Executive encourages students to prioritize mental health and utilize the many resources we have available to us as students to ensure that the everyday stresses and of life and education are manageable. During daily pressures and responsibilities, it is important to ask ourselves "What have you done for yourself?" and "What are you doing for your mental health?" One of the platforms my administrative cabinet ran on is Mental Health. We want to shed light on the various resources available to students. ASUO will partner with resources like the University Health Center and Duck Nest. We also want to work on implementing new programming around the importance of mental health and stress management especially for traditionally marginalized communities.

<https://counseling.uoregon.edu/self-help>

Accountability/Transparency/Communication

One of the promises my administrative cabinet ran on is ensuring that we find ways to keep the student body informed. We will be working on having a stronger social media presence via Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Social Media will be one of the outlets we use to ensure we keep the student body up to date on various events, new initiatives, ASUO Updates, and announcements.

Being that you elected us to take on these important roles, I intend to take my commitment to the Associated Students of the University of Oregon very seriously. We won on working strictly in the best interest of students. Just as I am held accountable as student body president. I will hold my staff accountable as well. Meaning that. I will use any and all measures per ASUO guidelines to ensure that all my officers are well informed and adequately prepared to fulfill their duties to their best abilities. When formulating my Executive Cabinet positions, I wanted to ensure that the individuals that take on these roles were able to fully commit to them, so I made sure to be as transparent and detailed with roles and expectations as possible. I have prioritized open and honest communication amongst my team.

There are various ways to hold my team accountable as with any leadership position. It is important to me to ensure that the best team available is representing and supporting the student body and while I can assure you that we will follow all protocol and grievance processes I will not hesitate to take drastic measures on termination or suspension in order to protect the best interests of our collective student body. Suspension is a stage in disciplinary processes where a student leader is removed (with or without stipend pay, depending on the circumstances) from that individuals' position for a certain amount of time. This will give any individual in a role time to understand the rationale behind suspension and reflect on what one needs to take accountability for. But it also provides time to navigate ways as to what could be done better for that individual to best fulfill the role after suspension.

In regard to what happens with the stipend during that period of suspension according to the ASUO Stipend Model document (which is available via the ASUO Website/ Orgsync). In the section on Stipend Administration and Disbursement Guidelines:

6. Stipends not claimed for any particular month due to the suspension of the recipient from their role may, upon confirmation by the ASUO Executive of the lifting said suspension and reinstatement of the student to the role, be claimed by the recipient as if they had never been suspended. Should the suspension of a recipient ultimately result in the removal from that recipient from their leadership position, the stipend shall be treated as if the role has been vacant for the entire period of the suspension and may not be claimed by the recipient, nor reallocated towards any other purpose.

8. Stipends shall be discontinued if a stipend recipient vacates the position, becomes academically ineligible, or is removed from their role.

9. Stipends may be temporarily suspended if the recipient is suspended from their role within a SO through the processes specified by the ASUO Student Organization Rules.

10. The discontinuation of a stipend is at the discretion of the Student Organization's Director and or the ASUO Executive. The University, including its employees, do not have the authority to revoke a student's stipend.

The Stipend Model also says that "Stipends are financial awards granted to students in leadership roles to support them in their efforts to further the ASUO mission of providing for the social, cultural, educational and physical development of its members, and for the advancement of their individual and collective interests both within the University and the community at-large.....the roles for which stipends are allocated must have clearly-defined educational benefits provided to the student who fills the position". In addition to suspension, termination is another way to ensure that we hold ourselves accountable in leadership positions as well as grievancing. In regard to governance that upholds and allows these proceedings. These would include sections 14.3 and 17.1 according to the ASUO Constitution (which is available via the ASUO Website/ Orgsync).

Closing

My administrative cabinet has created these attainable goals by listening to the voices of our peers over the past few years and identifying key areas where the ASUO can better serve the student body. We will continue this open line of communication and collaboration with our fellow students by creating a newsletter to update the campus about what we are working on. We will also hold forums and town halls throughout the year in efforts to further our outreach. Additionally, each executive member will hold set office hours that will be posted publicly for students to voice their concerns or opinions. By directly engaging with the student body the ASUO Executive will unite students from across campus, including various stakeholders in decision making, and provide students with opportunities to get involved in advocacy and volunteer work in efforts to better the overall student experience. We live in a time where student voices are more important than ever. Through the elevation of our collective voice, we

have the chance to take words and ideas and turn them into action and momentum, pushing towards the goals that would not be possible alone.

When I ran for this position I ran because I care about ensuring that student voices will be amplified in all matters. I believe that we need to take a stand against the many day to day injustices as well as the various systems of oppression. Even though we live in a world that continues to show its flaws it's important for us to start in our own communities to take the step towards change. As transformational leaders, we are driven by a set of inner values that fuel the courage to stand up in the face of adversity and do the right thing. Our convictions, the emotional commitment we feel to something bigger than ourselves, moves and inspires others. In the words of the late Martin Luther King Jr., "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Although my powers are limited, as your elected president I will work against all presupposed limitations of power to ensure I continue to advocate for and engage students in all together we deem important.

Welcome to the 2019-2020 academic year at the University of Oregon, during which we ASUO WILL do our very best at prioritizing.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sabinna E. Pierre". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

Sabinna E. Pierre
She/Her/Hers
2019-2020 ASUO President