

My name is Zach and I am running for president of the ASUO, your student government, under the One Oregon slate.

I would first like to highlight our two all-star graduate students: Awab Rawi and Terra Wheeler. As a GTF for the Office of International Affairs, Awab will bring the perspective of international GTFs. He is the president of the Arab Student Association and has strong connections throughout the law school (specifically the CRES program). Then, Terra Wheeler has experience with the ASUO working as an office assistant. As a Historic Preservation student in the AAA department, she can bring the voice of someone who is directly affected by slashed budgets for professional development.

Hiro Nukaga, who is running for the undergraduate Architecture seat, also has experience teaching as a GTF in the math department. These three Senators will serve as strong voices representing different aspects of graduate interests here on campus.

As a student in the French, Spanish and Political Science departments, I have seen firsthand the unreasonable burdens placed on the shoulders of many GTFs. I believe that the student government can make the lives of graduate students, and GTFs in particular, much easier. The single most funded service that the ASUO provides is childcare. However, this is divided among three budgets, and the advertising and outreach is lacking. By working in tandem with the GTFF and other graduate groups to spread the word, as well as our slate members who currently work for Childcare Subsidy, we will make sure that graduate parents get through the bureaucracy in order to access this essential service.

Another major place where the ASUO must increase its presence is professional development programs. As a Senator, I have seen time and time again requests for money that used to be

provided by departments. The ASUO must act as a buffer to shield these cuts that will negatively affect the career path and education of our graduate students.

Something our entire slate stands for is prioritizing services students depend upon through the budget process, ensuring they have a place instead of scrambling to find room for them at the end of the budget process. Free HIV testing, the 79X at nights (a bus that runs to student housing behind Autzen), a student-run food pantry, and open source textbooks for common classes are all achievable goals that will drastically improve student lives. Making student government more accessible by helping groups with fundraising and advertising--not just serving as an ATM--will also help us get more out of the amazing events, conferences and retreats that programs organize.

The ASUO has a tremendous impact on the quality of life of all students, particularly graduates, during their time here. The vote you cast can make a huge impact. As a slate, our door is always open to your input and we all look forward to working with you to help make the university a better place. Thank you.