ASUO

Associated Students of the University of Oregon

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The Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) is the recognized representative organization of students at the university. Its network of committees, activities, and student organizations serves student needs and interests. The ASUO gives students the opportunity to plan and direct their own groups, to become involved in many aspects of university life, and to influence the decisions that affect the quality of education and student life at the university. Students who pay into the incidental fund are members of the ASUO.

Organization

The ASUO is comprised of three branches: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial.

- The executive is responsible for university-wide campaigns; the oversight of recognized student organizations; and officer and committee appointments.
- The legislative is responsible for initiating funding and policy decisions. This includes crafting and passing resolutions, coordinating the actions of four finance committees. Student Senate is also responsible for confirming presidential appointees.
- The judicial regulates decisions related to questions which arise under the ASUO Constitution or any rule promulgated under it, and serves as the appeals board for issues which arise out of the ASUO Elections.

ASUO's Executive Branch

The ASUO Executive Branch consists of the ASUO Student Body President, the Student Body Vice President, and up to 24 appointed students who serve as Executive Cabinet Members. The President is elected during the association's campus wide election in the spring, and all members of the Executive Branch serve one-year terms.

Executive Cabinet Members work with the ASUO President to identify issues and endeavors of importance to UO students, and take steps to positively impact the student experience by engaging on these issues in order to make change. The Executive welcomes all students to bring their ideas for campus improvement to the ASUO President, who can be reached at asuopres@uoregon.edu.

In addition to coordinating campaigns, the executive approves, oversees, and works alongside more than 200 student organizations which are recognized by ASUO. Any students who wish to form a student organization and seek recognition should reach out to the Programs Coordinator at asuoprog@uoregon.edu. Finally, the executive coordinates all appointments on behalf of ASUO, to University-wide committees, task forces, and work groups. Students interested in serving the university by participating on a committee should contact the Chief of Staff at asuocos@uoregon.edu.

ASUO's Legislative Branch: Student Senate and Finance Committees

The ASUO Legislative Branch consists of the 24-member Student Senate and four finance committees comprising seven to 12 student members each. A majority of the positions on the senate and its finance committees are elected during the association's campus-wide election in the spring; a small number are appointed by the executive. Members of the legislative branch serve either one- or two-year terms.

The **Student Senate** debates policy and financial decisions and holds confirmation discussions at its weekly hearings that occur every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Dusty Miller Room, 107 Erb Memorial Union. Students, faculty, and staff members are welcome to attend these hearings, and time is set aside during each meeting for those assembled to address the senate.

The **Programs Finance Committee** is engaged in recommending the allocation and appropriation of incidental fees for approximately 150 ASUO-Recognized Student Organizations. Any such organization is eligible to request money from the incidental fund, and this committee meets with each organization annually to discuss budget requests and examine its financial performance. This process typically begins in October and concludes in January (for the following fiscal year).

The **Athletics and Contracts Finance Committee** recommends the allocation and appropriation of incidental fees for contracted service providers. It annually examines nine campus-wide contracts, evaluates their performance, and makes decisions related to continuation of contracted services for UO students. Among the services in the committee's purview are:

- Lane Transit District (LTD) transit passes for students
- Legal and advocacy services for students
- Student tickets and admission to UO Athletic events
- Student newspaper publication and distribution services
- Child-care services at Spencer View Housing

The **Department Finance Committee** recommends the allocation and appropriation of incidental fees for department-based programs of the university. It oversees expenditures to 14 units within the university, including but not limited to: the Mills International Center, the Safe Ride and Designated Driver Shuttle Program, Student Government Engagement and Success, Conflict Resolution Services, the UO Zero-Waste Program, and the Women's Center.

The **EMU Board** is technically a subcommittee of the Student Senate, and also exists to advise Erb Memorial Union representatives on matters relating to the use of the facility. The EMU Board consists of 12 students and several administrators. The EMU Board Finance Committee is responsible for recommending the allocation and appropriation of incidental fees for the EMU and for all EMU-based programs. It examines expenditures and endeavors of the Craft Center, Club Sports, Center for Student Involvement, Moss Street Children's Center, KWVA-FM, the Sustainability Center, and several administrative units.

ASUO's Judicial Branch: Constitution Court

The Constitution Court is a five-member body appointed by the student body president and confirmed by Student Senate. Associate justices serve terms for the duration of their time as UO students.

The Court has the authority to rule on any question arising under the ASUO Constitution or any rule promulgated under it. This review power covers almost any action by ASUO government bodies, programs, and—in special cases such as elections—actions by individual students within the ASUO program. The Constitution Court has broad powers to impose sanctions to compel compliance with its rulings.