

Simon Brundage and Radhika Shah are running for President and Vice President of the Associated Students of Oregon State University (ASOSU), respectively, and released the following platform statement:

Our campaign, “A New OSU,” is focused on implementing change in areas where it is needed, and preserving what works. It is easy to assert that we need change; it is difficult to provide specific solutions to complicated issues. We are running for ASOSU President and Vice President to face these problems head on. The issues of today require innovative public solutions and incorruptible public agents. We believe we are best suited to fulfill this role—fighting for student advocacy and practical reform. In particular, “A New OSU” is premised upon four areas of reform: fiscal responsibility and college affordability, campus infrastructure and safety, social justice, and ASOSU internal affairs.

First, “A New OSU” is committed to promoting fiscal responsibility within ASOSU, and innovating lobbying priorities to prevent tuition hikes. We believe previous administrations have adopted ineffective methods of addressing college affordability. With tuition increases across Oregon, it is clear our priorities are unrealistic and lack direction. While we appreciate the intentions of our predecessors, “A New OSU” will take ASOSU in a new direction. Our more immediate agenda items include: creating a steering committee focused on proposing cuts, increasing revenue streams, and other techniques to mitigate tuition hikes; fundamentally changing the role of ASOSU in the SIFC budgeting process; assessing and removing administrative waste; and focusing ASOSU lobbying on establishing a ceiling for tuition increases.

Second, “A New OSU” will address needed improvements in campus infrastructure and safety. As our campus continues to expand, ASOSU has failed to extend the Blue Light Emergency Phone System, and to provide lighting and security for bike racks. In addition, as our student population increases, parking availability has remained stagnant. While this is not the fault of ASOSU, it is within their power to communicate the significance of the issue. Our administration will move forward on the above projects.

Third, “A New OSU” seeks to enhance student advocacy through social justice initiatives. In this way, our priority is to cultivate accepting environments for diverse communities to thrive—not only in cultural resource centers, but on all of campus. An important step to accomplishing this is bringing to light existing systems of oppression and recognizing the difficulties that students endure. Our administration will focus on social programming and continuing previous efforts to build tolerant, intersectional communities on campus.

Finally, our campaign will increase accountability within ASOSU. Too often do representatives and senators neglect to attend scheduled meetings, and too often is there a communication disconnect between ASOSU and the student body. Barriers between these two entities can be alleviated by: creating a consolidated list of student government vacancies on the website to encourage involvement; imposing stricter regulations on ASOSU Congress attendance; providing better coverage of congressional meetings through Orange Media Network; and assigning the responsibility of ASOSU web development and updates to a specific cabinet position.

