FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9th CORVALLIS, OR

This morning, ASOSU President Amelia Harris received an email from Vice President of Finance Administration Mark McCambridge ensuring 13 ADA-accessible parking spaces at or near the new Student Experience Center building.

This email comes after weeks of arduous work by the ASOSU Executive Branch, including emails, planning meetings, and one-on-ones.

“It feels good to deliver on the promises we made to students,” President Harris said.

The email wasn’t specific about where the spaces would be, but it did assure that they would be as near to the building as possible. The email also lays out a plan to address all campus parking, including precious core campus parking, for people with disabilities by the end of the calendar year.

Mr. McCambridge and ASOSU realize that there are still significant problems with accessibility but this is a positive step in the right direction.

Last year, the ASOSU Congress passed several resolutions regarding accessibility, most noteworthy among them the “COSSID Coup Resolution,” which in its preamble delineated almost 14 pages of grievances against the system for assessing accessibility concerns on the OSU Corvallis Campus.

Vice President Dan Cushing, who participated in the discussion along with President Harris, felt this was a great victory for accessibility. “It’s clear that students are becoming more and more concerned about the issues that affect underrepresented students.”

According to an earlier meeting of the Campus Planning Committee, the SEC is slated to have five spaces on the east side on Memorial Place with a direct path of travel to the building’s south entrance on Jefferson Street.

The location of the remaining eight spaces, which were included in the plans approved by the State Legislature last spring, is unclear. Based on discussions with Interim Director of the Office of Equity Inclusion Angelo Gomez, there are numerous possible combinations for the locations of these spaces, including farther north on Memorial Place, between Waldo and Langdon Halls, or on Pioneer Place by the Women’s Center.

“We’re concerned about the paths of travel to the building, including the distance and conditions such as protection from the elements. However, we are excited to hear Mr. McCambridge’s dedication to finding a solution and we are eager to move forward with the building design.
ASOSU looks forward to continuing work on accessibility issues and following through on the agreements made by OSU administrators.

The building will finish its design development phase by October and will be reviewed by approval agencies before breaking ground next summer.