

President

Candidate: Cooper Robertson

Questions:

1. As the representative of the UW Seattle student body, how are you going to remain cognizant of different student issues?

First, it's important to know that RSOs represent a large number of students on campus and that for most, they treat it like a second home. RSO acts as a second family and by connecting with RSO leaders, we can take advantage of the knowledge they have on the interests and issues that their members face, and then we can tie their stories together to have a bigger picture of what further steps we can take. Additionally, I will seek to empower the membership of these RSOs to apply to key ASUW appointments. Such as the Provost's Advisory Committee, the Services and Activities Fee Committee (SAF), the Legislative Steering Committee, and the Student Technology Fee Committee (STF). I believe that it's important for them to have these roles, so unrepresentative communities and other students will have the safe-space they need to have a say on the decision-making that heavily impacts their communities, rather than having the traditional white male-dominated appointments. It's important to know everyone's story, and it's crucial to apply policies based on these students, so we're going to make the ASUW board more accessible, in trying to answer student's questions by setting up a live stream every week.

2. How do you plan on simultaneously welcoming a new class of students while also acknowledging the collective trauma of COVID-19?

This is too large of a question to address in 200 words - As the ASUW President this is a major balancing act. These are the steps that I will take:

1. Address the unique challenges that new incoming students adapting to a new school in a potentially virtual environment
2. Establish time and space for people to talk about their fears and losses
3. Openly communicate any and all information that I have access to, so that students have an accurate and up to date picture of the response of the University
4. Lead with optimism to reestablish hope, and with transparency to deepen trust
5. Foster the power of community, convey the message of "we are all in this together", bridge the gap of physical distancing by encouraging connections between students in the form of friendship & mentorship
6. While this is collective trauma, recognizing and supporting those who are disproportionately affected is key. Equal support is not equitable support. Supporting our communities of color, those facing food and housing insecurity, and other vulnerable communities is of the utmost importance.