

Director of Internal Policy

Candidate: Antonio Gonzalez

Questions:

1. In what ways do you believe ASUW, its Constitution and Bylaws, Records, Wiki, and both judicial and lobbying efforts can more accurately reflect the diversity of the Student Body?

With all the different cultures and backgrounds on campus, we must ensure that the people who are in charge of managing, amending, and lobbying for the issues that come out of the Internal Policy office and ASUW reflect the makeup of our students. While I was a part of the OMA&D EOP program, I had the opportunity to work with many talented and remarkable students that equally had the qualifications to be a part of ASUW. Yet, we noticed that our experiences and backgrounds were not equitably represented in leadership. This will change when I am elected. I vow to tackle these tough questions and make a difference in how our constitution, bylaws, judicial and lobby efforts are conducted:

1. Review the language of our governing documents and recommend changes to make it more inclusive and representative of our student body.
2. Nominate people who reflect the student body to various committees and positions within my office.
3. Launch various diversity campaigns to showcase all of the opportunities that people can get involved in.
4. Invite the leaders of our amazing RSO's that represent our student body and create spaces for all identities, cultures, and backgrounds within ASUW.

2. How will you approach educational conversations for the Senate around controversial topics, particularly around issues presented by underrepresented communities?

I am someone who values education and research. The first thing that goes through my mind when we approach a sensitive topic that may be deemed controversial is to understand why it may be viewed that way and become an expert on all sides of the argument. One strength of mine is that I love spread sheets, info graphics, and over planning for things so I promise that everyone will be fully caught up to the historical and contemporary backgrounds of the conversation that will be taking place. Giving people the space and the time to have these conversations is a good start to understanding issues presented by underrepresented communities. If I am not the appropriate person to be facilitating these conversations, I will always ask for help. We need to be comfortable in our ability to ask hard questions and stay open minded in what may arise. Before we tackle the agenda, I would ask myself why I am the first person to give space for this conversation? If I am not the first person, what went wrong last time? What can we do differently this time? Once we have figured out why and how, setting ground rules for the conversation is critical. I do not want

people to invalidate each other, put each other down, or feel like their stance is not being heard. Senate speaking limits and decorum may be a good way for ensuring that everyone has a fair chance of speaking, but nonetheless I have deep trust and faith in our senators and student body to respect each other and tackle tough issues. Inviting in experts of the issue is a great way of helping the flow of questions and facilitate the conversations to a compromise if that arises. Coming together on common ground without invalidating the integrity of the outcome is a responsibly I take seriously. I promise a safe space, time, education and respect when tackling controversial topics.