

Director of Programming

Candidate: Rahul Prasad

Questions:

1.If the COVID-19 crisis continues into fall quarter, what is your plan to adapt events such as fall fling and commencement? Additionally, how do you plan to make your events accessible to those without secure internet connection or transportation?

My job as Director of Programming requires that I acknowledge how serious a threat COVID-19 poses to our student body, and to ensure their safety in these times above all else. Should the pandemic continue into fall quarter, it would be irresponsible and unsafe to host large-scale gatherings in person. Events like commencement can be held virtually through a webcast, similar to how June commencement is scheduled to proceed, with an invitation to the 2021 commencement also extended so that students do not completely miss out on the in-person experience. However, I personally feel that moments like fall fling are impossible to replicate online, so I would instead focus on trying to postpone the event until Winter or Spring quarter, when the virus is better contained. To bridge the gap left, I would work to create an alternative event, like UW pen pals or platonic zoom speed dates, where the focus is placed on providing new students with the opportunity to meet with each other virtually or through letters. While not a perfect substitute, these events allow students to form bonds with each other that they can bring with them when they transition back to campus.

2.What are tangible ways you want to make ASUW programming accessible to the disabled community?

Creating equal access to opportunities is one of my chief goals as Director of Programming, and there are specific steps I plan to take if elected. My first step would be to work with the proposed Office of Inclusive Design to ensure all ASUW programming adheres to the principles of universal design. This could include steps such as distributing programming on multiple different platforms, ensuring features such as alt text are present on all online programming, and having ASL interpreters at all ASUW events. I also recognize that as someone who does not identify as part of the disabled community, I am not aware of all the challenges they face as students. That is why I would also make it a priority to reach out to the Student Disability Commission to better understand the ways I can help end ableist practices at UW. Increasing accessibility is a process, and one I look forward to dedicating myself to with the help of the OID and SDC.