

## **Director of University Affairs**

**Candidate:** Maha Sohail AlHomoud

### **Questions:**

1. As ASUW's main liaison to the University's administration, how do you plan to ensure that the administration continues to make diversity and its expansion a priority?

In my platform, I stress on collaborating with the Faculty Councils on Teaching and Learning, and Academic Standards to develop impactful diversity educational materials, expanding options for fulfilling diversity credits simultaneously with other requirements. Because UW considers diversity a core value for creating equitable learning environments, it is vital that curriculums represent the true diversity of UW, which is not reflected currently. To pursue a more inclusive and equitable teaching model, I will work with the Director of Diversity Efforts who sits on the Diversity Faculty Council to ensure that conversations amongst faculty and students are a priority. Keeping an accountability check facilitated by students from underrepresented backgrounds and communities, and working with the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity. Also, promoting diversity programs such as Leadership without borders from the Ethnic Cultural Center (ECC), is very important to foster allyship from faculty by training programs and provide spaces for undocumented students with opportunities, resources, and support. I will partner with GPSS and the Graduate Student Union to coordinate efforts in pushing for diversity, equity, and inclusion training for TAs and all educating professionals.

2. Due to COVID-19, there was a great deal of confusion and anxiety from the student body due to a lack of understanding of what the administration was doing. How will you ensure future better communication between the University's administration and the student body?

Especially during this time, emails from the office of the President, which include important information regarding updates about modes of education, and public town halls hosted by the administration, are long with many websites and questionnaires. They are also inaccessible for ESL students, and students with limited access to communication methods like Gmail due to censorship and internet accessibility. Transparency and accessibility with different platforms (Facebook, WeChat, Twitter), and different languages are key.

Learning from the 2014-2015 ASUWT Director of University Affairs, who maintained a weekly blog on the ASUWT website updating it with important information, such as recruiting interns, and important news, I am inspired to create a similar blog, and sharing it in different platforms and languages. I will collaborate with ASUW Board and campus entities to share important information on the blog. I also desire to work with a team composed of members of the Communications Director, Office of Communication, Director of Diversity Efforts, Office of

Outreach and Involvement, the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity, different RSOs, and the Student Advisory Board to create a streamlined process of forwarding the most relevant information to the most impacted student groups, with emails tailored specifically to stakeholders.