

Director of University Affairs

Candidate: Clara Coyote

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?

While students holding traditionally privileged identities may think most things at UW are just fine, for the most marginalized, our system is riddled with prejudices. At every level, my current platform which includes protecting WA-resident DACA students from paying out-of-state tuition, expanding use of lecture capture technology to expand course accessibility for disabled students, and creating a Transfer Student Task Force, is centered around diversity and equity at the administrative and faculty level. To go into detail about a policy goal closely tied to expanding diversity, I will lobby administration to transform the admissions process for capacity constrained majors and direct to college programs to ensure holistic admissions processes are reviewed by third party admissions experts. While many departments claim to have holistic admissions, currently, departments set that definition for themselves and are not trained or overseen in how to admit holistically. This means biases allow privileged kids from privileged high schools with an easier time at "better" resumes may be admitted to direct to college programs or competitive majors over those who worked hard and faced adversity at every step. I will fight to ensure training in holistic admission for every department that reads applications.

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?

Sometimes the UA is the only student allowed in closed meetings of faculty and administration. This special privilege holds immense responsibility to bring that information out of that room and directly to students. In my current role as the Speaker of Student, I have done my part to spark communication about COVID-19 response from administration. Alongside my awesome senate office team, I hosted a live filmed forum at the end of winter quarter with President Cauce about what the future in the COVID-era would hold. Senators got to ask President Cauce directly about accountability from administration. I know how to coordinate with administration and push for direct conversations with students. To continue this commitment, I will create a new means of speaking with students directly about the work of administration: ask the ASUW President to include updates from the Director of University affairs in their update emails that go out to the entire student body. Many students don't realize the work of Direct of University Affairs and I want to change that. Lastly, I will push for frequent virtual town hall meetings given by admin and faculty together just like the first of its kind held on 5/1/20.