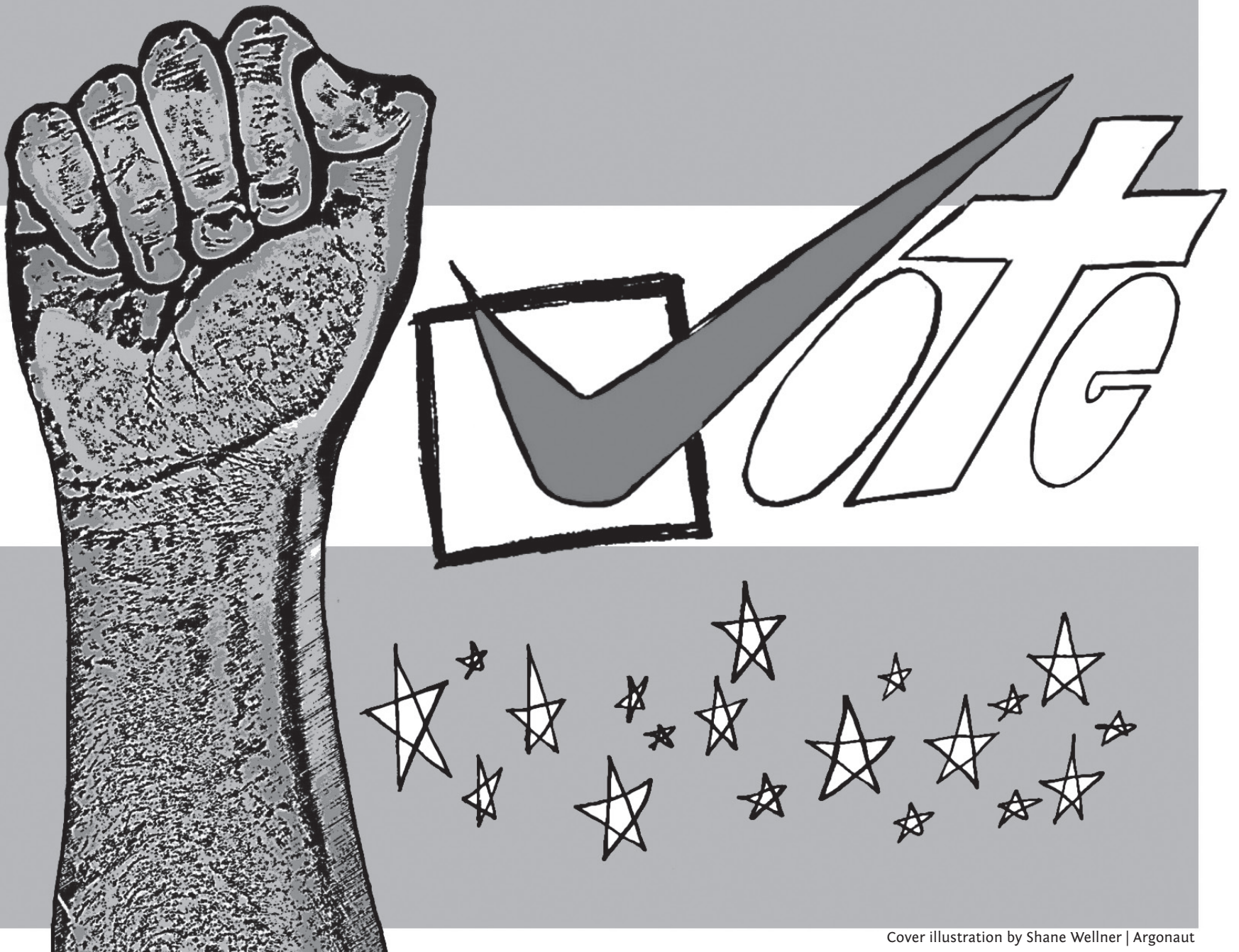


THE

ARG

Spring guide to ASUI elections

March 25, 2014



Cover illustration by Shane Wellner | Argonaut

Encouraging participation

ASUI Election Coordinators talk election logistics, offering incentives

Amber Emery

Argonaut

Last semester Election Coordinators Pilar Alfaro and Tanner Beymer set a precedent for ASUI elections by offering incentives to voters, which yielded one of the highest voter turnouts in University of Idaho history.

This semester, Alfaro and Beymer are at it again — offering incentives to voters who vote at designated polling stations and to those who ask questions at the four open forums.

“An iPad Mini and Vandal Store gift cards are available to those who vote at our voting table, which will be March 31, April 1 and April 2,” Alfaro said. “You can also win prizes by coming to the open forums and asking the candidates questions.”

Alfaro said while they anticipate similar numbers at the polls this semester, the figures were smaller in the amount of applications for both the executive and senate positions.

“Unfortunately we didn’t get as many applications turned in,” Alfaro said. “Which is surprising because usually the spring election cycle is more popular.”

For instance, there is only one pair of candidates running for the president and vice president positions. Beymer said it’s not the first time it’s happened.

“There is only one option to vote for president and vice president — Nate and Sarah,” Beymer said.

“Although it looks like they are going to win, who knows? We could have students pursue a write-in campaign and steal the show.”

There are 11 candidates vying for senate positions this semester. If elected, they will begin their terms in the fall 2014 semester.

Beymer said students should take note there is a districting clause ASUI elections abide by to ensure equal representation.

“There is still a districting clause in ASUI (rules and regulations),” Beymer. “So if we have one living group that completely takes the entire election and the margin of difference between the lowest votes receiving for one living group and the highest votes receiving of another is less than 20 percent, then that person boots the other one and they get the position — like last election.”

Beymer also said each undergraduate student attending UI is a member of ASUI and it’s important for the student body to vote in the elections in order to have a say in who is representing them

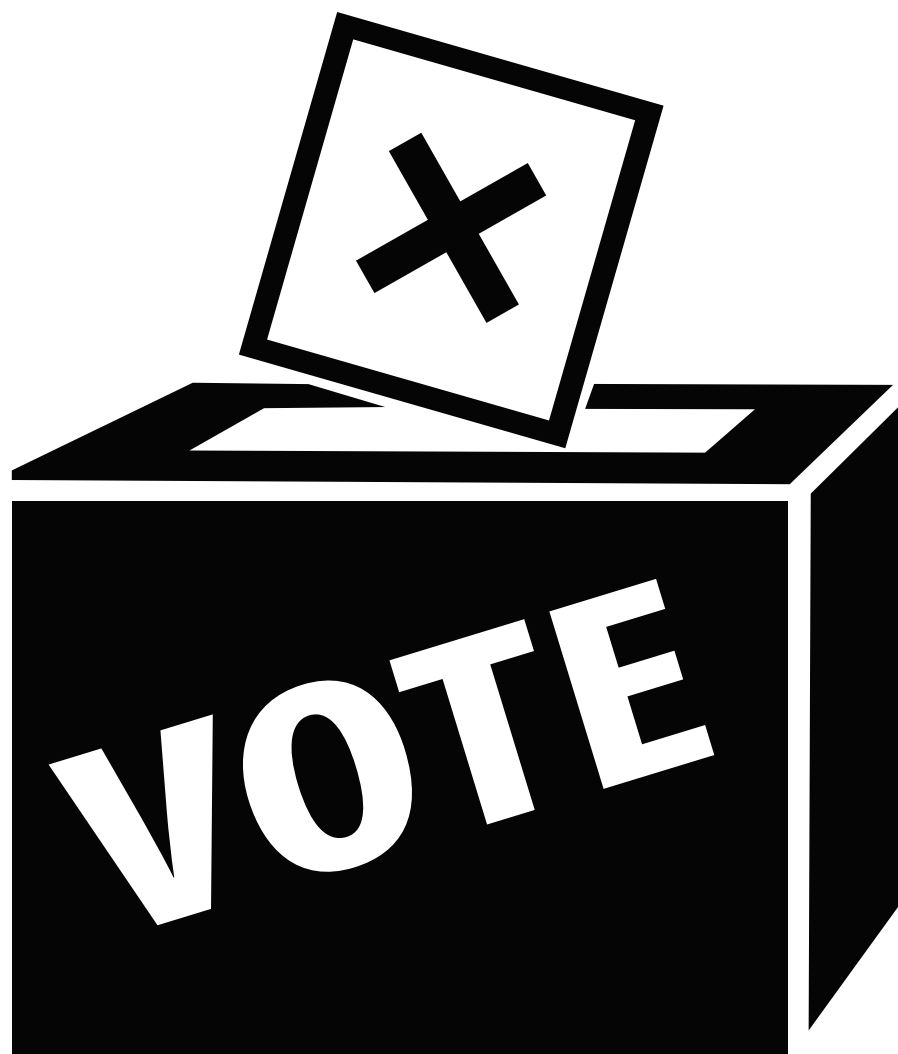
in state, local and university-level affairs.

“If (students) really, truly love their university and they really, truly love ‘the Vandal experience’ then they’ll make sure they get likeminded people in those offices by voting in the ASUI elections,” Beymer said.

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more information

Elections will take place March 31-April 2 and voting will take place on line as well as at voting stations around campus.



MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

ASUI President and Vice President

Name: Nate Fisher (Presidential Candidate)
Year: Sophomore
Major: Political science/Agricultural economics
Hometown: Boise, Idaho
Fun fact: I can create beautiful music with the viola.

Name: Sarah Vetsmany (VP Candidate)
Year: Junior
Major: Political science/International studies
Hometown: Boise, Idaho
Fun fact: I'm terrified of amphibians.

Platform

Idaho Student Association: We want to help implement and reestablish the Idaho Student Association (ISA), an organization that would advocate for higher education and students' rights matters within our state. Many other states across the country have formal student associations that are very successful, and we would like to start moving Idaho in this direction. This organization has some history, but has faltered and been inactive in recent years. We want to work with the other universities and institutions of Idaho to create an effective advocacy group for the collective students of our state.

Class Accessibility: A growing number of students have expressed concern with the accessibility of many courses and confusion with the course registry system. Four-year graduation rates are already low enough, and we are worried that low accessibility to required classes is only perpetuating the problem. We want to work with the registrar's office to investigate and find solutions regarding class enrollment.

Campus Safety Promotion & Coordination: We, and the University of Idaho itself, are very committed to campus safety. Many safety programs like "Green Dot" and the "I've Got Your Back Campaign" exist and are at work to encourage safety on campus. We want to further promote these programs and coordinate efforts in order to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all students.



ASUI SENATOR CANDIDATES

CYNTHIA ALEXANDRA BALLESTROS

Year: Freshman
Major: International Studies/Anthropology
Hometown: Nampa, Idaho
Fun fact: The pink in my hair is for breast cancer, because an ex-coworker has breast cancer, and this is a way to show my support.
Platform: I hope to merge the bridges between organizations and living groups.

ERIC ALVAREZ

Year: Junior
Major: Political science
Hometown: Modesto, California
Fun fact: I own over 3,000 vinyl records and counting.
Platform: The University of Idaho student body deserves effective representation, and if I'm elected senator, you can trust that I will work directly with students from all corners of campus to ensure that no issue goes unnoticed. Community involvement is pivotal to a college town like ours.

We students compose a significant portion of the city of Moscow, therefore as senator, I will ensure that ASUI builds strong relationships with city council members, so we can have more of an impact on the growth and wellbeing of our town.

Safety and awareness is essential in college. Therefore, I plan on making proactive improvement by implementing awareness, safety and information workshops to guarantee that every student has extra knowledge needed to always feel safe. I will aim to provide such workshops throughout the year.

AUSTIN BLACKER

Year: Freshman
Major: Operations Management
Hometown: Emmett, Idaho
Fun fact: I have rode an elephant twice
Platform: My campaign platforms consist of the barrier between living groups, student involvement and sustainability.

My running mate, Amanda Richards and I believe that these platforms are of high importance here on campus. The barrier between living groups can use some improvement, and I think there are many ways we can solve this problem, if put into action. Student involvement is always something that can be improved here on campus and there are already many new methods being implemented to get the highest possible outcome of students involved. I would really like to see them taken into action.

Lastly, sustainability here on campus is relatively low and I have many new ideas I would like to bring forward to make sustainability imperative on campus once again. I hope to bring forward these new ideas and strategies to make the University of Idaho the best it can be.

CAMERON COCHEMS

Year: Sophomore
Major: International relations/Army ROTC
Hometown: Nampa, Idaho
Fun fact: I was an extra in the hit film "American History X."

Platform: Our university has a lot of untapped potential, and the administration we currently have is not utilizing it. Instead of protecting our interests and being on the defensive, we should be proactive and show all the reasons why our school is the best in Idaho and the northwest.

Take for example our Greek system. We should be proud of it and use it as a great recruiting tool, not only for the social aspects of being in a Greek house, but also for the academic excellence and leadership experience.

Of course the Greek system is not the only way of living on campus, we have a great dormitory system which exceeds all others in Idaho, and most of campus housing in close enough to walk to campus, making our university the best option if you want a true college experience. GO VANDALS!

STETSON HOLMAN

Year: Sophomore
Major: Political Science
Hometown: Idaho Falls, Idaho
Fun fact: I am the oldest of five brothers and sisters.

Platform: Hello Vandals. If elected to ASUI Senate I will devote my time and effort to improving student life at the University of Idaho.

As your representative, I hope to increase communication between the student body and ASUI, keep you informed, and contribute to ASUI's legacy of success.

Last but not least, I want to help increase student participation on campus so we can all lead UI to a brighter and better future.

EDWIN LATRELL

Year: Senior
Major: International Studies/Philosophy/Psychology

Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colorado
Fun fact: I once flew an AH-1W Cobra helicopter over Camp Bastion, Afghanistan.

Platform: As an ASUI senator, I shall work to faithfully represent the students at the University of Idaho through leadership, experience and accountability.

I believe that servant leadership is the cornerstone of effective representation, and I desire to serve my fellow students and the University of Idaho community through selflessness, perseverance and genuine concern for their interests.

My experience in nearly every aspect of student life grants me a unique perspective on student diversity. As a senator, my goal will be to provide balanced representation of the diverse views inherent in the different facets of student life.

I fully understand that the charge of representing my fellow students ultimately makes me accountable to them for my actions as a senator. I shall undertake every effort to ensure that students at the University of Idaho understand what their senate is doing for them.

JOE MADSEN

Year: Sophomore
Major: Political Science

Hometown: Teton Valley, Idaho
Fun fact: I've been skiing since I was four.

Platform: My goal as senator would be to promote the student voice while developing concrete, viable ideas for the student body.

A huge priority of mine is to continue the fight against sexual assault on campus by enhancing the current measures and striving to create new ones. It is critical that all students are aware of the safety services provided by the university and ought to have significant input in the making of new ones.

The other change I would like to see is an increased attendance at Vandal athletic events. I would work closely with the ASUI Director of Athletics to foster the Vandalizer program. I want to generate a unique, energetic environment that will facilitate support for Vandal athletics within the student body.

KATE RICART

Year: Sophomore

Major: Studio Art

Hometown: Pleasanton, California

Fun fact: I listen to the Disney Pandora station to wake up in the morning.

Platform: The platform that I plan on running on is based around improving student transportation, with a focus on more student parking.

With a campus the size of ours, we need to improve the availability of parking on campus and also make it so that it is easier to get around campus during the winter months when it snows a lot.

This is a campus-wide problem that affects resident housing, off-campus students and the Greek students. However, in order to not limit this to just students who drive, I also want to look into expanding the heated sidewalks for those who don't have cars and still want to see improvement in transportation around campus and around town.

AMANDA RICHARDS

Year: Freshman

Major: Business Marketing

Hometown: Gooding, Idaho

Fun fact: I lived in China for six weeks with an exchange family

Platform: My campaigning platforms are student involvement, barriers between living groups and sustainability. My running mate, Austin Blacker and I believe these platforms are top priority for students and faculty this year.

As a senator candidate, I hope to enrich the student experience both on and off campus. I believe being connected with the campus and all aspects of living groups is a foundation for success.

Also, student involvement and student enrollment numbers has slightly decreased this year. I hope to represent the university in a positive limelight and grow our numbers throughout campus.

Lastly, sustainability on campus is relatively low. I hope to increase awareness and implement green projects or creative and innovative ways of recycling. As a senator candidate, I hope to broaden my knowledge of my platforms and be an outlet for students and the great University of Idaho.

RICARDO RUIZ

Year: Freshman

Major: Accounting

Hometown: Kimberly, Idaho.

Fun fact: I lived in Santiago, Chile for six months when I was a child.

Platform: I am running for ASUI senate because I believe that there is a gap between University of Idaho student residents and international students and something has to be done to lessen the gap.

DAVID WHITT

Year: Junior

Major: English

Hometown: San Diego, California

Fun fact: I've kept a journal since the third grade.

Platform: I agree with Virginia Woolf when she said, "One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well." This year the University of Idaho is renegotiating its on-campus food contract.

As your representative, I will strive to make sure students are intimately involved with choosing what food will be on campus. We all need some extra help once in a while. The academic support systems are essential for student success. As your representative I will examine the current state of our academic support and access programs and strive to improve them.

Looking forward, I think that a freshman's first year establishes a foundation for their entire college career. I believe that proper academic growth and social integration can be fostered through effective entry programs. As your senator I will investigate how these programs can be improved for freshman as well as transfer students.

Two down, two to go

Guns, Greeks and student relations among issues addressed at open forums

Hannah Shirley

Argonaut

Nine of the 11 candidates for ASUI senate came forward to stretch their political muscles in the first open forum of ASUI spring elections before Panhellenic Council March 10.

The members of Panhellenic Council – the governing body for sororities on campus – were eager to hear about the candidates' stance on Greek issues such as relations between Greek and non-Greek students and approaching UI's reputation as a party school. Candidates responded by emphasizing the importance of relating issues to all students on campus and highlighting the university's strong points and continuously striving for betterment on all fronts.

Current ASUI Senator Austin Karstetter said though the candidates did well, many piggy-backed off the other answers. This, he said, is common in the first open forum when many candidates realize they need to study up on issues on campus.

The second open forum, attended by five candidates, took place in Bob's Place before members of the Residence Hall Association. Candidates were asked for their stances on several issues, including guns on campus, student voice and the disconnect between student legislators and the general student body.

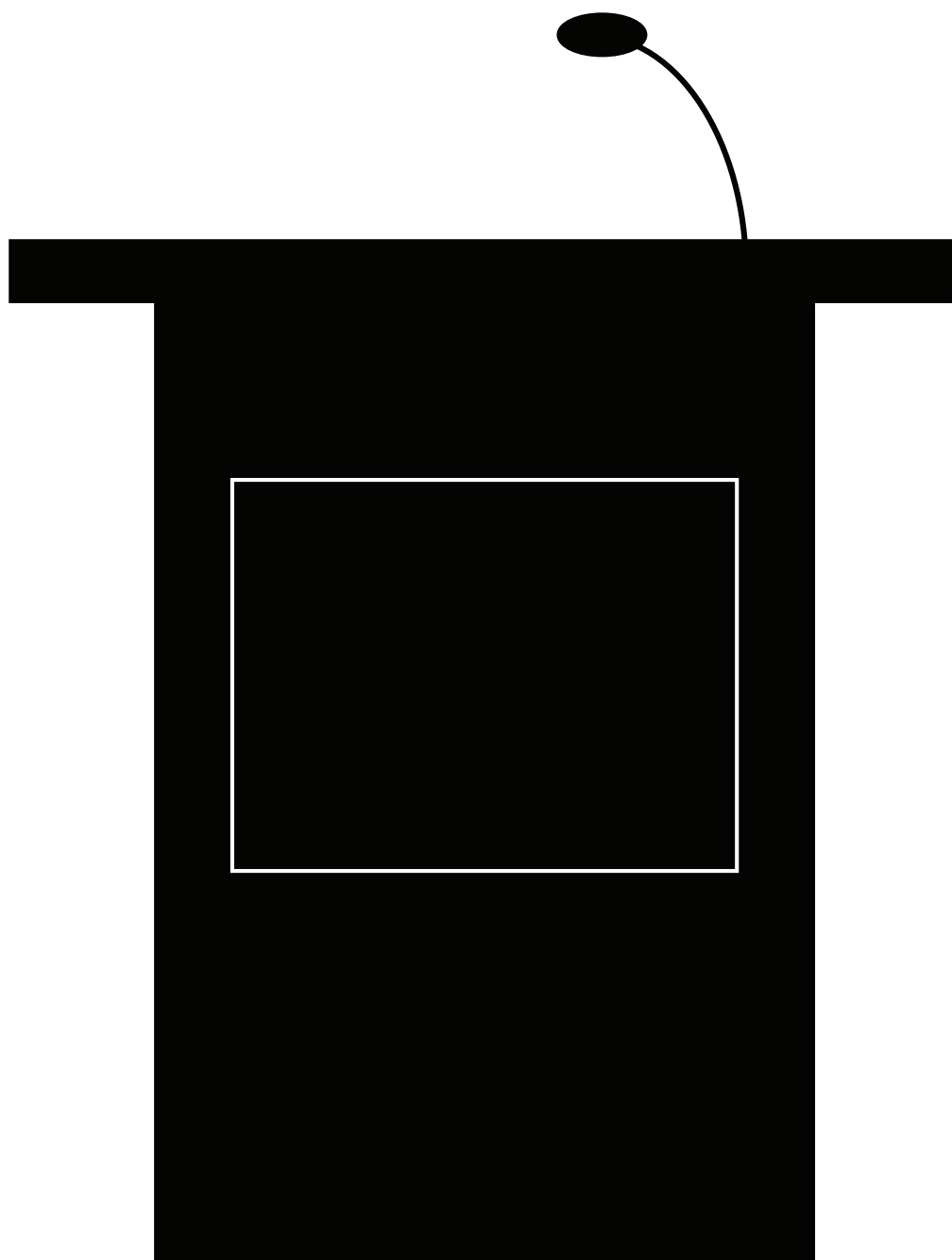
With the passage of a bill that will allow guns on

public college campuses in Idaho, candidates admitted there was little contention left on the subject. However, there was a consensus that staying safe was of utmost importance at this point, and hopes for safety classes in the future were expressed. Candidates also agreed that in addressing student voice and bridging the gap between legislators and students and listening to student concerns and ideas will be the place to start.

Though the first two open forums were directed specifically toward Greek students and students of the residence halls, the final two open forums will be open for any student to attend. They will take place at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday and 11:30 a.m. Friday in the Idaho Commons.

According to Karstetter, that makes these forums intimidating in an entirely different way – the commotion of the cafeteria can throw candidates off. Besides that, the questions tend to escalate dramatically to address the big, hot-button issues such as tuition increases, alcohol policies, the university's changing relationship with the Greek system and the Student Code of Conduct, said current ASUI President Max Cowan. However, Karstetter said, as long as candidates go into them having done their homework and knowing where they stand, the remaining forums should go smoothly.

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Seeking feedback

Poll questions on ballot offer opportunities for students to have a voice

Erin Bamer

Argonaut

Despite the many controversial issues that have faced UI this year, no initiatives will make it onto the ASUI spring elections ballot. Elections Coordinator Tanner Beymer said this is because ASUI has no exclusive control over any of the issues.

Although no initiatives are included, polling questions will be on the ballot to show ASUI what students think about certain campus issues.

“These are fantastic opportunities to gauge a larger population of university students,” ASUI President Max Cowan said.

Beymer said many of the questions are not set in stone yet and are still being revised before they are put on the ballot. All polling questions must also be approved by the

senate first.

There are four categories ASUI will ask students about this year, the first of which addresses food options for students. Beymer said multiple questions were sent in from the Sustainability Center, and ASUI is currently trying to narrow it down to one.

Vandal Entertainment always is something ASUI asks on the ballot, Beymer said. Cowan said this semester’s questions will focus on where and when the demand is for entertainment events.

ASUI Sen. Everett Boker started a project for a bike share program ASUI will ask about on the ballot. Beymer said Boker was inspired by

Washington State University’s program, but his proposal is different. A student would have the option of renting a bike with their VandalCard. Beymer said the question on

the ballot centers on whether students are willing to increase their fees in order to support the program.

The final category focuses on student’s agreement or disagreement toward a new statement of student values. Cowan said ASUI met with various student leaders around campus and

drafted a simple statement of student values. Whether or not students agree with the statement will give ASUI an idea of how to move forward and accomplish new goals.

“These are fantastic opportunities to gauge a larger population of university students.”

Max Cowan

Election Coordinator Pilar Alfaro said the results of the polling questions will not impact the election of new ASUI officers. However, something Alfaro said they do pay attention to is where the votes are coming from. A question they always include is whether the voter is from Greek housing, a residence hall or off campus. This gives ASUI an idea of who they’re reaching.

Though it won’t impact the election, the results of polling questions are something ASUI doesn’t take lightly. Beymer gave an example from last year, where students spoke up about their desire for a new parking system. Since then, ASUI has worked on how they can change parking for students.

Beymer said that last year students also expressed their opinions on how ASUI should attend events they promote

and those comments impacted ASUI senate heavily. Now, the senate has a rule holding senators accountable for attending their promoted events.

Polling questions aren’t something the student body should take lightly either. Cowan said the questions should hold importance for students, because it’s a chance for them to have a say on issues they are passionate about. Student feedback is something that directly impacts the actions of ASUI.

“ASUI’s mission is to serve the best interests of the students,” Beymer said. “The best way we can do that is to garner feedback. And there are only so many that we can do that and the ballot is one of the biggest ways that we do that.”

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ASUI ELECTIONS

University of Idaho

★ 2014 ★

VOTE AT THE POLLING TABLE TO WIN
GO-PRO I-PAD MINI VANDALSTORE GIFTCARDS

VOTE FOR SENATE & PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

MONDAY MARCH 31ST TUESDAY APRIL 1ST WEDNESDAY APRIL 2ND

VOTE ONLINE @ VOTE.UIDAHO.EDU VOTE AT POLLING TABLE IN COMMONS 10:30-4:30 PM

