

THE ARGONAUT'S

# ASUI

*Fall 2015*

## VOTING GUIDE

[VOTING TAKES PLACE through Wednesday via email ballot]

CANDIDATES



BALLOT INITIATIVES



VOTING INFORMATION

# Redistricting for representation

*Conversations underway for redistricting of ASUI*

**Nishant Mohan**  
Argonaut

For ASUI President Max Cowan, more representatives would mean more voices heard on campus.

“Right now, each senator represents about 500 people,” Cowan said. “That doesn’t compare to national or state representation of course, but if we as a university have the ability to be more representative, we should.”

Cowan’s plan to redistrict the ASUI Senate would increase the number of senators from 15 to 23.

In this election cycle, Cowan said 23 students were interested in running for seven senate seats, but many gave up early because of the low chance of winning.

The plan to redistrict includes more than just increasing the number of senators.

Currently, ASUI Senate representation is organized by living groups, with a third of the seats reserved for Greek members, a third for non-Greek and a third left open for those with the next most votes.

Yet, seats are still voted for at large and the system only holds as long as competing candidates are within a 20 percent margin of each other in votes.

“That’s who you know, but shouldn’t be the default way to govern,” Cowan said.

Cowan said he would like to replace the system based on living groups with one based on colleges. He said he wants there to be two seats from each of UI’s eight colleges and seven open seats for a total of 23 seats.

Cowan said UI is organized around colleges, so if student government wants to have an impact at this institution, it should match its structure.

He said moving away from districting by living group would never exclude working with living groups, but that conversation should be framed, for the most part, in the context of colleges.

ASUI Senate candidate Meredith Breen expressed a similar sentiment at the forum for Wallace Complex residents Thursday night.

Breen said she is in favor of a system that places less focus on living groups



File photo Megan Gospe | Argonaut

ASUI President Max Cowan speaks at a ASUI senate meeting earlier this year.

to better promote community. She also said she thought it would help under-represented students like those in the hard sciences.

While ASUI Senator Kaitlyn Bartles would also like to see a system representing students by college, she said she would like redistricting efforts to focus on adding more open seats.

Bartles said she thinks strict districting

would remove the competition required to produce good senators.

“I think (districting by living group) would allow people to be a part of it who only want it for their resume and not to actually make change,” Bartles said. “But if you did district it slightly, by reserving seats for colleges, it would make it more prestigious and attractive.”

Cowan said he plans to have a draft

document prepared by the end of winter break — ready for the new senate to vote on.

“I think this will lead to more conversations about what ASUI does,” Cowan said.

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# Voice of the students

ASUI is liaison between students and administration

**Nishant Mohan**  
Argonaut

ASUI President Max Cowan said he came into ASUI not knowing a whole lot about it.

"I knew it had a little to do with student fees," Cowan said. "And since then I've learned there isn't a whole lot ASUI isn't involved in."

Cowan said ASUI's job is to represent students' interests to the administration, the state and the nation as well as to enrich student experience.

"We are committed to shared governance at UI," he said. "We support this university through our tuition and deserve a say in how it is run."

What does ASUI have power over? They have oversight over student fees, for one. ASUI schedules speakers, entertainment acts and events campus. ASUI also provides funding to various student organizations.

Cowan said he works closely with UI President Chuck Staben and Provost and Executive Vice President John Wiencek to share student opinion. He said senators also interact with various administrators as their projects necessitate.

ASUI gives students a voice in the administration by having students sit on faculty committees. Students often have voting rights when sitting on committees, such as the parking appeals committee and the student disciplinary review board.

Cowan, ASUI Vice President Stetson Holman, ASUI Adjutant Tanner Beymer, ASUI Sen. McKenzie MacDonald and UI student Rosemary Coldsnow all sit on the student disciplinary review board. Together, they make up half of the SDRB, which has power over suspension, expulsion, revocation and mandatory actions.

"In most decisions, there is at least one student listening to and voicing your concerns," Cowan said.

He said ASUI is the best way for students to be involved in their college experience, whether that's coordinating campus events or working toward policy change.

ASUI interacts with students in a variety of ways. They keep students updated through their Facebook page and weekly emails. Senators also meet with every living group on campus, including Greek chapters and residence hall communities, to solicit feedback and keep students up to date on ASUI.

"Off-campus students are not represented very well," Cowan said, mentioning he is an off-campus student himself. "But we try through the outlets we have."

ASUI has also recently solicited feedback through email polls. In the first email poll, Cowan asked for students' opinions on medical amnesty. He said the poll received over 400 replies in the first three days.

"We have a constant, intentional effort to include students in something larger than themselves," Cowan said.

Beymer, current senate parliamentarian, said last year he was in charge of ASUI's legislative ambassador program, which sends one student from each of Idaho's



File Photo Alex Brizee | Argonaut

Senate Parliamentarian Tanner Beymer speaks at a ASUI meeting earlier this year.

35 legislative districts to meet with legislators and lobby for UI interests.

Beymer said they also hire a full-time student lobbyist every year to advocate for UI policies in the State Legislature. Last year, he said they focused on securing funding for a change in employee compensation. This year's ASUI Lobbyist Nate Fisher will focus on a bill for medical amnesty.

Cowan said although students may not have a high opinion of ASUI, it does not mean they are not doing their job.

"I don't think we're far off from our nation or state in terms of civic engagement," he said.

Cowan said they have a variety of ways of knowing what students want or need.

"Although people might not always know our name, it is not about getting credit for the work we do," he said. "It is about ensuring our work is meaningful."

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# ASUI SENATE CANDIDATES

## JAMES HOWARD

Freshman  
On-campus  
Business and Economics



Howard

My name is James Howard. I'm a freshman majoring in business and economics. I grew up in Fruitland, Idaho, and graduated from high school in 2013. I spent two years traveling to the Philippines and working, then decided it was time for college. I currently reside in the Wallace Residence Center and work at Thomas Hammer Coffee Roasters here in Moscow. My vision for the University of Idaho is to help make it a completely self-sustaining university. I want to foster ideas that will make us a leader in this way. Additionally, I'm campaigning on the livability here — between the outdated state of our dorms and the dreadful state of Bob's Place, I want to make the living conditions here healthier and more enjoyable for both current and future students. Our community suffers because of this poor state of livability. The day freshman year ends, many students move off campus, losing a valuable piece of the everyday community. My priority in running for senate is the well-being of all UI students. Please don't be breaking my heart — vote for me. Dakota Lynd

## DAKOTA LYND

Junior  
Kappa Delta  
Biology/Pre-med



Lynd

As a biology student emphasizing pre-med and minoring in Spanish, I have a unique perspective to bring to the senate. I am involved in Kappa Delta Sorority and the Pre-Med Club. I am running for senate because

I want to evaluate the unnecessary supplementary costs for students so that we can make the University of Idaho more affordable for all students.

I would like to have teachers adopt the open textbook program for their 100-level classes, which makes textbooks free for those classes. I have also talked to a lot of students and heard that they are unhappy with their meal contracts, so I would like to look into other options as far as revising the meal plan and getting more student voice heard to find a better option. The WUE program allows students from out-of-state to attend the UI while paying in-state tuition. Bringing back this program would raise our enrollment rate and would allow the university to be more financially accessible to out-of-state students.

## LAURA EHMANN

Junior  
Kappa Alpha Theta  
Food and Nutrition



Ehman

I am a junior at the University of Idaho and am a part of a Greek organization. I have been part of the Student Alumni Relations Board for three years and have served as many different committee chair

positions in the organization. As a woman of the university, I am working to promote sexual assault awareness and the Campus Safety Week. It is important for all students on our campus to feel safe, and feel like their needs are being cared for. I recently came back from studying abroad in Argentina, and student diversity and cultivating those relationships is very important to me. Working towards reestablishing a Moscow-Pullman bus is essential both for connecting the two universities but also for those students that choose to dual enroll and must currently find their own transportation. All students should feel represented on our campus and I want to do this and be the voice for those students.

## CORTNEY HUDSON

Sophomore  
Kappa Delta  
Chemical Engineering



Hudson

As a sophomore chemical engineering major, when I think of the University of Idaho I think of our strong Vandal community, but I feel as if it can be improved. Running for senate to me means in-

creasing the unity of our students in separate living groups both on and off campus. Throughout my time here, I have affiliated myself in groups campus-wide including Greek Life, Residence Life, Society of Women in Engineering and the School of Music. To me unity of students comes about from each student feeling represented at the university which I believe I can do effectively.

Furthermore, my running mate Charles Price and I want to strive increase the availability of healthier and more affordable food options on campus. One way we wish to do this is by looking into the catering provided and seeing if there is a way to represent the preferences of students in their food choices.

My passion for UI ensures that I will strive to represent what is in the best interest for the students and commit to representing their voices.

## DRAYKE HILPERT

Sophomore  
Kappa Kappa Gamma  
International Studies and History



Hilpert

I'm Drayke Hilpert. I am a sophomore at the University of Idaho and I am from Spokane, Washington. I am studying international studies and history. I am running on a sustainability platform,

primarily focusing on making the university a plastic bottle-free campus. In order to make a more sustainable campus I hope to implement recycling incentives as well as raising awareness of the benefits of recycling. If elected I would work toward the promotion of reusable water bottles and implement a pledge for those dedicated to the cause of reducing plastic waste. Drayke... with a "y"... because "y not?"

## ANNE ZABALA

Junior  
Off-campus  
English and Organizational Science



Zabala

I am a fourth year student studying English and organizational science. Currently I work as an Alternative Service Break (ASB) Coordinator in the Volunteer Center and have previously

served as ASUI's Student Lobbyist. I understand policy and have learned how to engage students from all backgrounds. Senate has two responsibilities: improving our university experience and communicating with students, both in listening to their input and talking about the work that student government does. If elected, I will work toward this goal.

For these reasons, I am running on a platform of Engagement, Community, and Productivity. I will push to make Senate more visible by creating regular times for senators to be on campus speaking to students. Both campus and the city of Moscow are not as bikeable as they should be. This is the kind of community issue we should be addressing. Additionally, I will fight to stop student fees from being wasted because we don't utilize central purchasing. We buy thousands of T-shirts every year, but don't receive the best discount because we order from many different vendors. We could be saving time and money on this issue. Ultimately, a vote for me is a vote for efficiency.

## CRUZ BOTELLO

Sophomore  
Phi Gamma Delta  
Sociology



Botello

The first tier of my platform is more inclusive student involvement. The senate is elected for the students by the students and their voice is the primary purpose for this position. I would facilitate student ideas through surveying, open forums, and social media.

My next tier is funds management. Why are we spending money on activities students are not attending? We need to put this money back in the power of the students because they deserve a say in where their money goes and what it is being used for.

Finally, we should utilize more involvement with the Moscow community. SYNC was a great way to introduce students into volunteering with the community and more programs like this should be introduced throughout the year.

## SENATE BIOS (Continued)

**RACHAEL MILLER**

*Junior  
Alpha Phi  
Political Science and  
Public Relations*



Miller

I am a junior at the University of Idaho studying political science and public relations from McCall, Idaho. I have served a full term on the ASUI Senate and am an active member of Alpha Phi, the UI Honors Program and many clubs on campus. I am passionate about ASUI and strive to promote the interests of the entire student body in my time in Senate.

My running mate Cruz Botello and I are running on a platform that encourages inclusivity and diversity, improvement of facilities and productivity in terms of policy. As senators, we aim to represent the entirety of the student body, including minorities and under-represented interests, in all projects, legislation and discussions in ASUI. If elected the provost to advocate for and proceed with the transformation of the main floor of the Idaho Commons' planned student space. Additionally, we hope to re-stimulate the \$200 million worth of deferred maintenance projects that currently exist at the University of Idaho. Lastly, we hope to energize the ASUI Senate to continue pushing policy such as medical amnesty and professor usage of Blackboard to the UI administration and Idaho

**JESSICA GEE**

*Junior  
Kappa Delta  
Political Science*



Gee

As a Vandal I have many values, but there are two in particular my running mate, Dominic Delatorre, I will focus on as your senators for ASUI: safety and community. My name is Jessica Gee and I am from a small town called Idaho City, Idaho. I transferred to the University of Idaho at the beginning of this school year to finish my degree. I am working on my B.S. with a major in political science and a minor in journalism with hopes of attending law school. Immediately after transferring to Moscow I began getting involved on campus. This includes writing for The Argonaut student newspaper and becoming a member of Kappa Delta Sorority. As I mentioned above, safety is something I value and would like to improve. I want to better the Safe Walk program and make it more visible to the student population. I also want to enhance the Vandal community by making sure all groups have an equal voice. I want to enlarge the presence of groups such as the LGBTQA, Black Student Union, and Native American Student Association.

**DOMINIC DELATORRE**

*Freshman  
Phi Gamma Delta  
Statistics and  
Pre-med*



Delatorre

As a double-major in statistics and pre-med and a member of FIJI Fraternity, I have many responsibilities. However, I also have a responsibility to improve the University of Idaho campus which I feel I can do as a senator for ASUI. My name is Dominic Delatorre and I am from Middleton, Idaho. I am a freshman working towards my B.S. degree which I will use to apply for medical school. Becoming a part of the Vandal community has been an enriching experience and would like to have the opportunity to improve our campus. My running mate Jessica Gee and I are primarily focused on safety and community. We believe improving the Safe Walk program would be beneficial to students' well-being across campus. We want to make the program more visible to fellow Vandals so they can utilize it to its full extent. Also, we believe equal representation of all organizations and groups is incredibly important. We want to work with groups such as LGBTQA, Black Student Union, and Native American Student Association to increase their presence on campus.

**MEREDITH BREEN**

Breen

My name is Meredith Breen and I am a sophomore studying anthropology. I am originally from Middleton, Idaho. My whole family are Vandals, so I am thrilled that I get to attend this university, and continue on the family tradition. I work for the University of Idaho Housing office, at the Wallace information desk. My platform is a two-fold program. The first part of my platform is creating stronger bonds through the campus community. I believe a strong community can foster great success. I would like an opportunity for each person to get to know their fellow Vandals. The second part of my platform is to help deter sexual assault on campus. I would like to be able to provide sexual assault prevention training for everyone on campus. Sexual assault is not something that our campus can just sweep under the rug. I want to create a discussion how the Vandal community can stop being bystanders to a very pertinent problem. I am very excited at the possibility of representing an amazing student body.

**TANNER J. BEYMER**

Beymer

Tanner is a senior studying agricultural economics and political science and, in addition to ASUI, is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and the Student Alumni Relations Board. Tanner is running alongside current ASUI Senator McKenzie MacDonald. If elected, Tanner will work to further the student experience by emphasizing the development of the Vandal community, increasing efficiency in the Senate and across ASUI, and strive to be accountable to his fellow students about every decision that is made. Furthermore, he previously served as the ASUI Director of Policy. In that role, he started laying the groundwork for the legislative effort to enact medical amnesty legislation, which he hopes to continue to work on as a senator.

**MCKENZIE MACDONALD**

MacDonald

Hello Vandals! My name is McKenzie MacDonald and I am a sophomore double majoring in Political Science and Economics. I currently live in the Residence Halls and have had a great experience so far and plan to live there again next year. I have been an ASUI Senator since September of this year and am very excited to be campaigning to retain my seat. I, along with my running mate Tanner Beymer, are looking forward to representing students to the best of our ability. To do this, we believe in the three core values that make up our platform: Community, Efficiency and Accountability. To improve the campus community we are looking forward to being part of the conversations about expanding student space, student safety and the overall Vandal experience. The efficiency prong of our platform has to do directly with efficiency within ASUI. The quicker that ASUI can get things done, the more we will be able to do for the students. Finally, accountability is very important to us. As student representatives, we need to make sure that every project is seen through to the end and that every decision we make is with the students in mind.





ASUI Sen. Rachael Millert asks about how the ASUI offices are open to all at students at a Nov. 11 ASUI meeting.

Alex Brizee | Argonaut

# Low turnout, high stakes

## *ASUI senators defend platforms at open forums*

**Nishant Mohan**  
Argonaut

ASUI held a total of four open forums across campus last week in the run up to fall ASUI elections, which began Monday.

Candidates explained their platforms and answered questions from a moderator at the Nov. 10 forum in the Idaho Commons.

Senators Cruz Botello and Rachael Miller, who are up for reelection, said they are running on a platform of diversity and inclusivity at the Nov. 10 forum in the Idaho Commons.

Earlier this month, they took the lead in writing a resolution to address the concerns of members from the Black Student Union who came to ASUI Senate to start a conversation about race.

Miller said their goals include securing

student space, maintaining facilities and promoting efficiency by passing policies that have a positive affect on all students.

Senate Parliamentarian Tanner Beymer is running with Sen. McKenzie MacDonald, who started as an ASUI senator just a few months ago.

Beymer said they are running on a platform of efficiency, community and accountability.

“ASUI has spent a lot of money in this semester,” Beymer said at a Nov. 11 forum in the Idaho Commons. “And they’re all good programs, but the thing that concerns me is there is not a lot of discussion and discourse over the use of that money.”

Beymer said they would like to see ASUI go over the finances more carefully to better use students’ money.

MacDonald, who was appointed by ASUI to fill a vacancy early in the semester, said she is excited for elections as an opportunity to interact with students more directly.

Anne Zabala, who served as ASUI’s

student lobbyist last year and currently works as ASB coordinator in the Volunteer Center, said she is running on a platform of engagement, community and productivity at the Nov. 11 forum.

Like the other candidates with experience in ASUI, she has her own piece of the system she would like to change — central purchasing. She said different parts of the university that share interests do not coordinate to buy products like T-shirts and software in bulk, which wastes money. She said she would like to find and eliminate these inefficiencies to better use tuition and fees.

Candidate Laura Ehman, speaking at the Nov. 10 forum, said she is running to increase awareness of sexual assault. She said she supports the Green Dot program, the “It’s on Us” campaign as well as the Katie Benoit Safety Week and would like to see those further supported.

Ehman said she would like to see the University of Idaho and Washington State University come together again to rein-

state the Moscow-Pullman bus line.

Speaking at a Nov. 12 forum in the Wallace basement, candidates Charles Price and Cortney Hudson said they are running on platforms of living group unity and food quality and availability. Price said they would like to have on-campus food sources like Bob’s Place be open longer and have more options.

ASUI Senate Candidate Meredith Breen, speaking at the Nov. 12 forum, said her platform is one of community and sexual assault prevention. She said she would like to see more protection in the form of security.

Breen said she attends ASUI Senate meetings and is up to date on some of the issues ASUI is addressing. She said she supports ASUI President Max Cowan’s plan of reorganizing the senate’s districting system, which is based on living groups instead of on colleges.

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# ASUI ELECTIONS

University of Idaho

★ 2015 ★

VOTE FOR SENATE  
NOVEMBER 16, 17, 18  
VOTE VIA VANDALMAIL