

The position of President of the ASB is, unarguably, nothing to be taken lightly. The President not only acts as an important representative of the student body at certain official functions, such as Open Houses and meetings of the Board of Trustees, but also must ensure that the entire ASB works as a cohesive unit for the entire year, staying productive and on task. The President must always be willing to prioritize his or her role as such a leader, and dedicate time every day to staying on top of the latest administrative developments. Furthermore, it falls to the President of the ASB to ensure that every student in the school has the ability to voice concerns or suggestions regarding the ASB and the School Administration, and as such a good president should endeavor to solicit as many of such opinions as is possible.

If you do not, by now, expect me to say that I am the right man for the job... well, you need to listen to more speeches.

It is my opinion that currently, there is a problem at our school. Several years ago, the ASB maintained an up-to-date website and possessed a regularly checked e-mail address wherein feedback could be submitted. This has sadly fallen out of use, and as a result, dialogue between the ASB and students with something to say has suffered. If I am elected, I vow to enact changes to this. As a result, I will set up an e-mail account for the sole purpose of the submission of ideas and feedback to the ASB. Moreover, I will also configure an Overlake ASB Facebook page, to better inform the student body of the ideas currently being discussed by the ASB.

I propose this because it is my belief that even though the ASB consists of elected representatives, this does not mean that only those elected should be involved in the decision-making process – is it not better that possible ideas are advertised to the student body? When more communication takes place, the results are beneficial to all concerned. It is my belief that by opening the working of the ASB up, not only could we ensure that any complaints and differences in opinion could be heard and considered, but also the ASB itself, open to outside scrutiny, would be put under pressure to constantly do it's best work, as the entire student body would know when the ASB would be slacking off and working half-heartedly... and nobody wants that.

Moreover, although it is not the direct province of the President to manage such things, I would strongly encourage the scheduling of social events such as the recent Carnival. Although Dances are fun for the majority of people at the school and an established tradition, the social pressure accompanying a dance, and the typically narrow scope of music played, can lead the alienation of certain groups of students. I believe that almost everyone who attended the aforementioned Carnival enjoyed the experience, and I hope that in the future more people will attend similar more casual venues.

I would also, were I elected, advocate more funding for clubs that intrinsically warrant additional expenses. Take, for example, JSA, which requires an annual membership fee for entry and additional fees to attend one the few region-wide conventions held during the year. It is my opinion that the school should sponsor the membership cost for every member of the club, and provide funds for the officers of the club to attend the two largest conventions of the year. Moreover in my view, clubs such as Overlake Accent or the Newspaper, to which publication is absolutely necessary, should never have to worry about financial support. However, it is the Vice President who's duties include the overseeing of club funding, and therefore I would not have the last word in these issues.

In my view, the ASB should have no single biggest priority when entering the school year, for nobody can see the future and glean what the wishes of the student body will be at that time. If my experiences playing strategy games and commanding the Juniors in Overlake Risk (which, to be fair, was one bit strategy game), have taught me anything, it is the concept that “no plan survives contact with the enemy” – or, more broadly, how to improvise and lead at the same time. The particulars of military command and the leadership of the ASB do not exactly correspond, however, there are many parts of leadership that are universal. I have experience in inspiring others, in being absolutely dedicated to a cause, in knowing what to do when things go wrong (and things always do).

In short, I believe in a more open ASB with more diverse opportunities for everyone, and I believe that I have the skills to make real such a vision.

-Quinn Radich