Peter Halajian

For Speaker of ASOSU House of Representatives

To the members of the Coalition of Graduate Employees; my name is Peter Halajian and I am running for Speaker of the ASOSU House of Representatives. Thank you for reaching out to me. I greatly appreciate your interest and have given much thought and consideration to the questions in your questionnaire. Without embellishing too much here are my responses.

1. Graduate students are a large and important part of Oregon State. While there are already graduate representatives serving on ASOSU, there is certainly more that can be done to involve all graduate students in ASOSU processes and inform them of ASOSU services and benefits. If I am elected Speaker, I will ensure that all students at Oregon State are heard. I will invite graduate students and representatives to meetings to weigh in on issues in an attempt to gain a graduate student perspective. I will also do everything within my power to reach out to GTA’s and other graduate students to make them aware of meetings and proposed ASOSU legislation in order to gain their feedback.
2. As you may or may not know, a large part of ASOSU’s functions are to lobby on behalf of OSU students. While many of you are in the unique position of being both students and university employees, I will do everything in my power to ensure ASOSU support of graduate students in finding an equitable way forward for both the CGA and Oregon State. It is important to remember that ASOSU cannot make promises as to the nature of your contracts, but we can, and I will, stand up for the wellbeing of all Oregon State students.
3. Since gaining representation on the Board of Trustees is important to graduate students, I am very interested in finding a way to make that happen. Personally, I would like to see a permanent seat reserved for a graduate student on the Board of Trustees. This way graduate students will always have representation.
4. Education is one of the most important things a person can have. It can also have a large impact on a child’s life to see their mother or father pursuing a degree and getting an education. However, I fully understand it can be hard to both pursue ones dreams and raise ones family. I am very interested in hearing from student parents and their families to work on solutions to this problem. My main goal is to provide discipline and direction to ASOSU and part of that is being accurate and precise in our legislating. In order to do that I have to hear from those most effected. If I am elected speaker, I will be reaching out to student parents and their families in order to create legislation to make it easier and more affordable to raise a family and pursue and education at the same time.