

Melissa Bowers, CAS – ASU #3

If re-elected, I am most interested in continuing and focusing my work on the OA Council. I commit to working through the difficult questions about what it means to work and be valued as an OA at an institution in an ever-changing landscape. I believe the work of serving on OA Council is challenging and critical service. I am completing my first term on OA Council and I have grown with the role, council colleagues, the OA community, and in my leadership. I concurrently served on the Senate as an OA rep during this term. Senate service was an incredible opportunity to better understand and represent OAs at the level of institutional governance. I am not seeking reappointment to the UO Senate during this election and I am intentionally focusing my efforts on the unfinished and impactful work of the OA Council. During my current OA Council term, I served as the lead organizer for the OA Star recognition, co-lead for the OA Leadership Symposiums, as a Professional Development Coordinator, and I stepped into the role of Vice Chair this academic year. I am wholly dedicated in my service to continuing to work on solutions to elevate the OA experience at UO.

In my professional experience, this May will be nine years as an OA at UO with progressively responsible positions in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). I am currently an Associate Director of Academic Support focused on the business and academic operations of a grouping of humanities departments and programs. Prior to UO, I earned my MBA at Oregon State University and my BS at Cal Poly Humboldt (formerly HSU). At UO, I have a record of service on a number of CAS based committees. In university service, I bring experience on the Presidential Task Force on the Structure of CAS, an Office of the Provost Business Practices Task Force, a Business Affairs Policy Work Group, the Senate, and the OA Council. Outside UO, I worked in manager/director roles for fifteen years prior in government and non-profit entities. I serve the community in volunteerism related to Rotary International and work with the courts and foster youth. I have prior volunteerism in youth service and food security organizations.

In my leadership and service work, I aim to be authentic, transformational, and solutions based as a leader. I value transparency in genuinely responsible and thoughtful exchange of principle and perspective. I appreciate and emulate leaders who thoughtfully challenge the status quo, innovate, and make impactful and lasting incremental change in support of a vision of betterment. I am unsatisfied with leaders who only acknowledge problems. I respect open and creative leadership in commitment to finding solutions to the problems at hand with regard for the problems of the past and future. Integrity, empathy, and strategic problem solving are the core principles guiding my decisions. If re-elected, I commit to being brave, hard-working, and bringing my best drive, curiosity, and open learner mindset and self to my leadership work and service on the OA Council.