

Jesse Conway, Sponsored Projects Services

Raised by public school educators in a diverse and impoverished New York county during the racially charged War on Drugs, I learned quickly to question and demand facts in the face of authority. I was thrown out of high school senior year for penning an article in an unauthorized school newspaper calling for action against an administration hell bent on criminalizing student behavior, and began college on fire, with designs to disrupt the status quo and contribute to a new social paradigm built on freedom and equality: a fire I see in many UO students. On my 20th birthday, flames turned to rage when my closest childhood friend was gunned down by the police, a tragedy that would have never happened if his skin were white like mine.

Educationally, I graduated with a BS in Computer Science from The Evergreen State College in 2001, enamored with utilizing the fledgling internet to increase access to education to populations in need, butting heads with commercial copyright and other legal impediments, driving me to the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, where I graduated in 2006.

In quarantine, I experienced the joyful birth and new life of my first child, but constant painful media reminders of the racial inequities that persist in this country and state. As my youthful fires rekindled, I began thinking about how UO could make a difference, and believe impassioned leadership is the critical key.

I am in my 4th year at UO, first as an Intellectual Property (IP) Administrator and now as a Contracts Officer with the Office of Research and Innovation. I am fortunate: my questioning and challenging of the status quo is typically appreciated as my roles have primarily involved stewarding faculty, staff, student and UO academic freedom, legal and IP interests. As your UO Senator, objectives would be driven by passion for equality, academic freedom, and the courage to speak truth to power. As a licensed Oregon attorney since 2006, I have the skills necessary to navigate, articulate, create and help implement UO policy in alignment with these passions. I would be honored to serve you.