

Kenlei Cowell, Tykeson College and Career Advising

Hello UO Community! I am getting ready to enter my fourth year at the University of Oregon and am excited to be considered for a role in the UO Senate. I am currently an Academic and Career Advisor in the Global Connections Flight Path in Tykeson Hall. Prior to that, I served as the Undergraduate Coordinator for the Oregon Consortium for International and Area Studies.

My student-focused roles have given me great insight into the excitement, drive, and ability of our undergraduates, as well as the challenges many students face. These roles have also allowed me to see that these same challenges are also felt campus-wide by our graduate students, faculty, and staff alike.

Many of the students I work with are interested in the Humanities and Social Sciences, but I also work with students interested in the STEM fields, Professional Schools, and the Arts. Because of this, I have a deep appreciation for the variety of fields available to our community and I hope to see the UO continue to develop as a leader in all of these areas.

As an OA representative on the UO Senate, I will advocate for positive change to our community and help it continue to grow as a nationally recognized institution by addressing the issues of equity and inclusion with a stern eye and empowered voice. As a Native employee, I currently serve on the Native Strategies team through the Division of Equity and Inclusion. I hope to be able to connect with and leverage the ideas of the students, faculty, and staff involved in this group and other diversity-minded groups relating to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, low-income, and other identity markers to be sure that Senate decisions are being reviewed with as many perspectives in mind as our institution can manage. It is my goal to maintain an open door to truly serve the UO community holistically.