

Spencer Smith Candidate Statement- OA Council 2022-24

I am currently serving on the OA Council executive committee as the Secretary. I was elected to the council shortly after Covid disrupted our operations at UO in 2020. These past two years, we as a council have been advocating tirelessly for fellow OA's— from Covid safety protocols to flexible work arrangements to salary increases. I am grateful for all that we have accomplished, however our work is just getting started. I am seeking re-election on the council as we are at an amazing time to shape the future of work at UO. The pandemic has shifted our operations and we need to think strategically on how we can best serve our students while also recruiting and retaining top-class OA's. The work on the OAC is truly rewarding to me and I look forward to serving on the council for two more years if re-elected.

I have worked for the UO since 2016 and have served in both a classified and OA role. I work directly with students as a Financial Aid Counselor, and I love interacting with students—they are why we are all here! In my professional roles at the UO, I have had the opportunity to connect with front line workers, faculty members along with UO leadership. I served as a bridge builder between different departments and employee groups. As a member on the OA Council, we need colleagues to listen, advocate and provide solutions.

If re-elected into the OA Council, I will utilize my institutional knowledge to continue advocating for OA growth and development. Represent OA's and advocate for our employee group to find solutions to the problems we face. Each of our jobs, may have different day-to-day operations but we are united in one cause—to ensure that UO students receive a high-quality education, while ensuring they are safe and have a sense of belonging which will allow them to positively contribute to their communities as a Duck and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration!