



# **Attorney General 2020-2021 Candidate Packet**

As approved by the following ASUU officials:

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## **A Letter from the Student Body President:**

Dear 2020-2021 Candidates,

I imagine right now is a bit of a stressful and exciting time. I can definitely relate, as around this time, I was feeling all over the place. If there is anything that you might feel during this time, I hope that pride in oneself (a healthy amount, of course) will be one of them. It truly is admirable to want to serve the student body in the role of ASUU President. It takes a special person to even run, and it certainly takes one to effectively fulfill the role.

I haven't been super sure as to how I would frame this letter, or what I might say to those planning to run for the position I currently hold. But one idea I had was to maybe pretend that I am writing to myself from the future. So that's how I will proceed for the duration of this letter. Bear with me, I'm going to ask you to pretend that you're me for a little bit.

[Hey Eph:] The road ahead is going to be crazy, and arguably the most important time in your life to date. I need you to ask yourself why you are even running in the first place. If "serving the needs of students" isn't at the top of your list, I think you should reconsider. This job will be so difficult if you win, and it just won't be worth it if you're more concerned about any perks or how it will look on a resume.

Make sure that the people you are running with, are people that you can be close with, and that you all are on the same page in more regards than just your platform. During the campaign, and especially during your time in office (should you win), you all will be put through thick and thin. Things will only be more difficult if the formation of your ticket looks more like a business deal than a growing friendship.

I really hope that what I'm saying doesn't scare you because I really don't want it to. If you win, this will be the most fulfilling and rewarding role you've had ever. You will be in a position to help so many people, in a crucial time at that. You will learn so much and gain invaluable experience. But it will also be the most difficult thing you've done yet. Every day will pose a new challenge. However, if you have the right intentions, and the right people around you, nothing will be impossible, and I mean that.

Okay you can be yourself again ha-ha. I wish you the best, and I thank you for wanting to serve the students of the U. Know that I am proud of you, and I'm rooting for you. I'm rooting for anyone who wants to improve the lives of students. Go you, and as always, Go Utah :)

Sincerely,

Ephraim K. Kum  
Student Body President 2020-2021

## **A Letter from the Attorney General:**

Dear Candidates,

My name is Dallas Blackburn, and I am the Attorney General for the 2020-2021 academic school year. I encourage everyone to consider applying for this position. While stressful and time-consuming, it is highly rewarding and enjoyable.

Before you make the decision to run, you should know what you are getting themselves into. The Attorney General's job is to ensure that the ASUU Red Book (the student Constitution and Bylaws), Procedures, and University Policies are followed throughout student government at the University of Utah. This requires you to attend a lot of meetings. You need to attend almost every Assembly and Senate as well as Executive Cabinet meetings. Furthermore, the Attorney General resolves any disputes that members of ASUU have in regards to the Constitution and Bylaws. The Attorney General also has to defend the ASUU government to the Supreme Court and investigate members for impeachment proceedings if required. This may not be a full picture of everything required in this position, but this is a great starting point.

At this point, you may be asking yourself: with everything that is required of the Attorney General, why would I run? First, the camaraderie you experience in this position is amazing. With all of the meetings you attend, you meet amazing, inspiring students with whom you foster friendship. Second, this position requires you employ critical thinking skills as you need to decide constitutional and statutory questions that affect how student government is run at the University. Third, the Attorney General has an amazing amount of freedom and latitude. The only boss you have is the student body and the Red Book.

As Attorney General, remaining impartial is key to the success of ASUU student government. A lot of decisions will make some people happy while causing other people to become angry. It is important to realize that your actions should not be based on trying to make everyone happy, but rather to maintain the integrity of the governmental process in ASUU. In order to do this, you need to know the Red Book and how student government functions at the University of Utah.

Lastly, if you decide to run, campaign energetically and know why you want to run. Don't just run simply because you want to be Attorney General. Have a driving purpose as to why you want to be in this position. When times become stressful, this reason can help you remain strong and enthusiastic.

Sincerely,

Dallas Blackburn  
Attorney General 2020-2021

## **A Letter from the Diversity Director:**

Dear Candidates,

Congratulations on deciding to run for office and serve the student body here at the University of Utah. Running is one of the biggest and most important decisions you will make during your time here on campus. It is an honor to serve, and represent, this diverse body of students everyday. You will come to learn about, meet, and have face to face conversations with all of the students in our campus during your campaigns. And you will learn about all of the amazing life that we get to experience here everyday!

As the Diversity Board it is our duty to continuously cultivate diversity on our campus in a much more critical and transformative way. We as the Diversity Board ask that all candidates begin to critically think about how we can continuously cultivate diversity on our campus, and understand what cultivating diversity means when you continue your executive and legislative initiatives. During your campaign, did you reach out to the Black Student Union? During your campaign, did you sit down and have a conversation with a working class Trans Woman who is in your constituency to really earn her vote? During your campaign, did you research some of the past fails of ASUU and thought about how we can move forward?

At the end of your campaigns we hope you can think about these questions and say yes you did on all of them. During your time as an elected official these are questions that you will have to constantly think about even more so than during your campaigns. And the Diversity Board will always be here to help you reflect on this, we will always be here to help you engage in the conversation of what diversity is really supposed to look like in our communities and futures.

Good luck, and we'll chat after Election Day.

Ermiya Fanaeian

Director of Diversity 2020-2021

## **A Letter from the Deputy Elections Director:**

Dear Candidates,

Wow, what an amazing achievement! I congratulate you on choosing to run for office to become a member of the Associated Students of the University of Utah. It is quite a feat to dedicate yourself to serving your fellow classmates. I applaud your desire to take on this role and put in the hard work to build a campaign for yourself. Although it may be foreign and new to you, I promise it will be worth it. The road ahead requires your commitment and time. You will have to follow Redbook's rules and adhere to the election guidelines. Do not let this intimidate you, that is what I am here, and my director Torri Peck, we will help you along this journey. You are not alone and we believe in you!

It is critical if you want to be successful, meet the deadlines, and observe the procedures set by the Elections Board and outlined in ASUU's Redbook. This packet will become your best friend, as it holds all the important information you will need to know and dates you do not want to forget. If you want to be on top of the game, read the packet thoroughly, and take advantage of the great services the University of Utah offers candidates so they can run awesome campaigns. My advice, stay in control of paperwork and filing forms so you can focus on marketing your ticket and showcasing your terrific ideas. Get your name out there and make sure your school knows who you are. This is your time to shine, so give it all you got!

Think about why you are here. What are your motivating factors? Are you ready to hold a position that gives you the power to make a change? What change do you aspire to make? Before you fill out the applications and commit yourself to ASUU, I hope you have the answers to these questions. Our student body comes from a wide variety of backgrounds, with broad-ranging circumstances. They need individuals who are prepared to work for them and care about their issues. This is a pivotal time in many of our lives and strong leadership makes all the difference. If you are ready to create innovation and leave a lasting impact, you are in the right place.

The Associated Students of the University of Utah will offer you so many opportunities. You will meet incredible people, have exceptional experiences, and learn so much. We are excited to get to know you and hear what you have to offer. I encourage you with your path forward and I know you can do this! Best of luck!

Sincerely,

Kiki Hudson

Deputy Elections Director 2020-2021

## **Attorney General Candidate Eligibility Criteria**

**All candidates for Attorney General must:**

- Be a currently enrolled University of Utah student
- Have completed 30 credit hours prior to the time of filing
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.8
- Be a member in good standing of ASUU, meaning they have not been fired/impeached from an ASUU position within the year prior to the filing deadline, and were not disqualified from the previous ASUU election
- Not currently be serving as the ASUU Attorney General, Supreme Court Chief or Associate Justice, or Chief of Staff.
- Be eligible to work in the United States

## **Spring 2021 Elections Campaigning Guidelines**

*NOTE: The binding language that the Supreme Court considers when issuing rulings is in the governing documents: namely Redbook, Article V (<http://asuu.utah.edu/documents>). What follows prior to these sections are merely useful summaries and interpretations:*

### **Before the Election Period:**

- \$5.00 filing fee for all candidates and their respective deposits MUST be paid by the filing deadline, January 29, 2021 at 5:00 pm.
  - If you are unable to pay the filing fee, contact Abby Feenstra at [afeenstra@asuu.utah.edu](mailto:afeenstra@asuu.utah.edu).
- Complete the orientation for all candidates by February 5, 2021 at 11:59 pm.
  - The orientation will be available as a course on Canvas to complete once candidates have filed and paid the filing fee.
- If marketing is wanted, schedule a meeting with the Director of Marketing and the Marketing Advisor between January 4, 2021 and January 29, 2021.
- Complete the mandatory diversity education on Canvas by February 5, 2021 at 11:59 pm.
  - Failure to complete the mandatory diversity education by the stated deadline will result in disqualification from the election.

### **During the Voting Period:**

- Campaigning may not take place within 75 feet of a voting station.
  - Voting stations are considered to be any public computer.
- Candidates are prohibited from approaching potential voters with a web-enabled electronic device on which voting software is open.
- Elections will be held online; polling will occur from February 22, 2021 at 7:00 am to February 25, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

### **Grievances:**

- Grievances are the method through which campaign violations or infractions against student candidates and/or tickets are filed and adjudicated. Any violations of the rules contained in Redbook, this packet, or rules published by the Elections Director subsequent to the publishing of this packet will be dealt with by filing a grievance with the Supreme Court.
- The Supreme Court is an independent judicial body. The Elections Director and the Deputy Elections Director are not members of the Supreme Court and therefore have no vote on the decisions rendered by the Supreme Court. The Elections Director will, however, enforce the rulings of the Court.
- Grievance meeting dates will be set by the Supreme Court. Date and times will be posted



to the ASUU elections website as the meetings are needed. The grievance process will be loosely modeled after the US judicial system and will be structured to guarantee due process for all parties. This process includes the following:

- Right to be heard (grievance hearing and possibility for appeal)
- A fair judge (Supreme Court appointed by the ASUU President and confirmed by the Senate).
- All grievance hearings will be administered by the Supreme Court Chief Justice. Once a grievance is filed, the Elections Director will notify all parties involved in the grievance at least 24 hours before the hearing. Hearings are open and public meetings. Everyone must act appropriately and arrive promptly.
- All grievance rulings will be released to the Elections Director who will then post them on the Elections Blog. All rulings will be announced within 24 hours of the conclusion of the grievance hearing, unless the Supreme Court votes to extend deliberation time.

### **How to File a Grievance:**

- When preparing a grievance, use the form found online at <https://asuu.utah.edu/elections>. You must include a reference to the portion of Article V or the Elections Packet that is at issue. You may also provide any additional relevant information.
  - Additional information may be submitted after the grievance has been filed, but additional evidence will be admitted solely at the discretion of the Elections Director.
- Grievances may be filed by any matriculated student at the University of Utah. It is recommended that parties internally coordinate the filing of grievances to ensure that the same grievance is not filed twice. Additionally, the same grievance will not be considered by the Supreme Court twice.
- Grievances must be submitted by 5:00 pm two days before the grievance hearing. If no grievance is filed by 5:00 pm two days prior to the scheduled hearing, there will not be any grievance hearing for that week. (For example, if grievance hearings are held Wednesday, grievances must be filed by 5:00 pm Monday). During the last week of the campaign, this may be subject to change.
- Respondents may provide a copy of their defense or other written materials to the Elections Director to be distributed to the Court. Witnesses may attend and testify if a candidate or ticket chooses to share their allotted defense time with the witness. The candidate/ticket and witness may also be available to answer questions during the question period.

### **Grievance Proceedings:**

- During each grievance hearing, each party will present their opening statements and evidence to the Supreme Court.
- The complainant (party who has filed the grievance) will open and summate before the

respondent (the party against whom the grievance has been filed). Between the opening statement and the summation, the Supreme Court will have an opportunity to ask questions of either side.

- Individuals will only be allowed to respond if the question is directed to them. The Court will then hold a discussion period in which the candidates are not present.

### **Marketing:**

- ASUU will provide numerous marketing services for parties to utilize, such as poster printing, headshots, videography, etc. We will provide one poster design and headshot per ticket. We also have an in-house videographer for candidates to use.
- Sanila Math, [smath@asuu.utah.edu](mailto:smath@asuu.utah.edu) ASUU Director of Marketing, and Jessica Ashcraft, [jashcraft@asuu.utah.edu](mailto:jashcraft@asuu.utah.edu), Associate Director of Student Leadership & Involvement, will serve as your contacts regarding marketing design and ordering of materials.
  - Corresponding order forms will be available on the Elections Canvas page.
  - It is up to the party or candidate to ensure that all marketing conforms to the Marketing Board's rules and is in the correct, file-ready format. Sanila and Jessica can help provide advice and review marketing for technical assistance and order information.
  - All designs must be approved by the Director of Marketing.
- By ordering marketing materials for campaigning through ASUU, goods purchased will receive a tax-exempt status.
- It is up to the candidate to be aware of marketing deadlines. If a deadline is not met, ASUU cannot guarantee that a party will receive marketing before the campaign period. Violation of deadlines are cause for grievances to be filed against a candidate.
- The Elections Director will notify you when your order has arrived and will allow you to pick it up on poster sorting day. *\*subject to change according to COVID-19 pandemic*
- No campaign apparel may be worn before posting day.
- The use of University of Utah apparel or insignia, including the Block U and the Drum and Feather WILL NOT be allowed in your campaign marketing.
- The hand symbol of the U is permissible in any marketing. The verbal phrase "Go Utah" is permissible in marketing. The use of the term "ASUU" or "the Associated Students of the University of Utah" is also permissible. Any other questions regarding impermissible marketing materials should be directed to the Elections Director.
- Campaign posters must be purchased through the Elections Director and delivered to ASUU directly. Printed items may be purchased through the Elections Director, these can include posters, handouts, banners, and lawn signs. Before candidates hang up posters in buildings, they must ask the building administrators where they are allowed to hang their posters.
- If a campaign has any public social media groups on Facebook or any other platform, the Elections Director has the right to ask to serve as an administrator as soon once the page goes live.

- Guidelines around physical marketing materials are subject to change according to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Campaigning:**

- Campaigning includes (but is not limited to), wearing apparel, posting campaign-related content on social media sites, hosting events, and tabling. If there are any questions about what constitutes campaigning, please ask the Elections Director.
  - It is always better to ask for permission than to ask for forgiveness (see section on grievances).
- All actions taken publicly on social media are considered active campaigning and may not occur until posting day. Campaigning begins on posting day.
- You will be allowed to table in the Library Plaza between 10 am and 3 pm during the week of General Elections. You must send desired dates, and times to the Elections Director. Tabling requests are due on Canvas by January 31st at 5:00 pm. The Deputy Elections Director will organize and assign tabling locations.
- All guidelines to campaigning are subject to change, following the University of Utah's event guidelines and the advice under the current COVID-19 pandemic.

### **After the Election:**

- Posters and other campaign materials should be removed from campus within 10 days of the polls closing (March 7, 2021 by 5:00 pm).
- Grievances will be assessed by the Supreme Court according to Redbook and ASUU precedent.

### **Finance:**

- All parties are responsible for keeping track of their own budget. Expenditures must be disclosed to the Elections Board. If all expenditures are not disclosed, this will be grounds for a grievance.
- Details about the budget can be found in Redbook. If you have any questions about what is and is not considered marketing, or about what is and is not allowed according to Redbook, please contact the Elections Director.

### **Reimbursements:**

- Each Attorney General candidate may be reimbursed up to and may not spend more than \$500.
- Services or items given to the candidate with no cost must be included in the budget at a fair market price.
- More information on reimbursement eligibility is available in the ASUU 2020-2021 General Funding Guidelines.
- To be reimbursed you must send in a receipt and a bank statement showing that you are

the one who made the purchase to Michelle Chan [MChan@sa.utah.edu](mailto:MChan@sa.utah.edu) within three days of the purchase date on the receipt.

- Please contact Jessica Ashcraft ([jashcraft@sa.utah.edu](mailto:jashcraft@sa.utah.edu)) and Michelle Chan ([mchan@sa.utah.edu](mailto:mchan@sa.utah.edu)) **prior to entering a contractor agreement** to ensure compliance with employment laws and proper university payment procedures. If your ticket enters into a contractor agreement without consulting the SLI staff listed above, we cannot guarantee reimbursement or payment for the contractor's services. Refer to these guidelines and to the ASUU 2020-2021 Funding Guidelines for restrictions on duplicative services, eligibility to work at the university, conflict of interest, restricted purchases and procurement, licensed vendors, and tax exemption.
- Applicable forms for reimbursement will be available on the Elections Canvas page.
- In the event that a candidate is disqualified, ASUU will not provide any reimbursements for items purchased after the disqualification date.
- In the event that a candidate makes a purchase that includes tax, ASUU will only reimburse at the tax exempt price.
- All reimbursement requests must be completed by March 7, 2021.

#### **Inquiries:**

- Questions about election rules and proceedings should be directed to the Elections Director, who will respond to questions within 2 business days (discounting weekends and extenuating circumstances).
- Inquiries can become investigations at the discretion of the Elections Director.

#### **Interactions with the Elections Director, Supreme Court, and Advisors:**

- By participating in the 2021 ASUU Elections, you agree to behave in a civil, respectful manner toward the members of the Supreme Court, the Elections Director, and the Deputy Elections Director, and to abide by their judgment.
- Personal attacks and other obstructions of the elections process will not be tolerated and **may result in punitive action including disqualification from the election.**

### **Role and Responsibilities of the Attorney General** *NOTE: The*

*binding language that the Supreme Court considers when issuing rulings are in the governing documents: namely Redbook, Article V (<http://asuu.utah.edu/documents>). What follows prior to these sections are merely useful summaries and interpretations:*

#### **Duties:**

- Serve as counsel to the ASUU Government regarding the Constitution, the Bylaws, and University Regulations.
- Ensure that the Constitution and Bylaws are understood and obeyed by all members of the ASUU Government.
- Attend both General Senate meetings and General Assembly meetings to ensure that the

- Constitution and Bylaws are upheld.
- Assist members of the ASUU and the ASUU Government in drafting legislation as requested.
- Present information to the Legislative Branch regarding impeachment when Articles of Impeachment are issued.
- Serve as a liaison to the University's Office of General Counsel.
- Provide recommendations to the President and Legislative Branch regarding the constitutionality of proposed legislation.
- Serve as a non-voting member of the Committee on Student Affairs.
- Represent the ASUU Government in all formal disputes in which the ASUU Government is a party, excepting in conflicts of interest as defined by the Bylaws.

## Candidate Expectations

*All candidates are expected to read, understand, and abide by the Elections Packet and Redbook. By signing the candidate filing forms, all candidates agree to be held to the rules and regulations articulated in these ways.*

- All Attorney General Candidates will file online at <https://asuu.utah.edu/elections>.
- Candidates will pay the filing fee of \$5.00 per candidate through Campus Connect by the date that filing is due.
- Failure to pay the filing fee by the stated deadline will lead to disqualification from the election.
- Filed candidates will be held to the rules herein during the entire elections process including the time prior to filing.
- The rules articulated in this Elections Packet and within Article V permit ASUU to file grievances and prosecute on any alleged rule-breaking that occurs, including rule breaking that occurs before filing deadlines or the publication of this Elections Packet.
- Campaigning to any executive cabinet members of ASUU during the 2020-2021 year is prohibited. Any paid member of ASUU must remain nonpartisan towards any party or candidate while holding their position in ASUU. This rule will be strictly enforced, and any questions should be directed to the Elections Director before contacting current members of ASUU.
- Failure to complete the orientation and diversity education by the stated deadline will lead to disqualification from the election.
- All important dates, reminders, and updates pertinent to the elections process will be communicated to candidates through the Elections Canvas page.
- All filing for candidacy, paying fines or deposits, filing grievances and all other elections materials, unless otherwise specified, must be done via the ASUU elections page <https://asuu.utah.edu/elections>.
- If candidates have any questions, ideas, or concerns, they must contact the Elections Director. Anyone may approach the Director with any question, but a written record will be requested. The Director will keep a record of all correspondence.
- Campaigning in the Union is allowed as long as it does not occur in the Student Involvement wing. The Student Involvement wing is the hallway on the second floor where the ASUU office is located

# Calendar

*All dates on this calendar are final unless otherwise specified, and the only edits made to the published dates will be the removal of events. There may be additional dates provided, but these will not be mandatory if published following the filing deadline.*

- **January 29:** Filing deadline for Legislative and Attorney General positions at 5:00 pm
- **January 31:** Tabling Requests Due at 5:00 pm *\*subject to change*
- **February 5:** Candidate orientation and diversity training due on Canvas at 11:59 pm
- **February 8:** Campaigning begins/Posting Day
- **February 22:** Election Voting begins at 7:00 am
- **February 25:** Election Voting ends at 5:00 pm
- **February 26:** Election results announced - time and place TBA
- **March 7:** All campaign materials must be taken down
- **April 16:** Inauguration - time and place TBA

**In the event of a primary, the following dates will take effect instead of the dates listed above:**

*If there are more than 3 candidates registered and running for Attorney General, a primary election shall occur to determine general election candidates for that seat. In case of a primary election, see the primary dates below. All primary date changes will be communicated via the elections blog, if needed.*

- **February 8:** Posting Day
- **February 8:** Primary Campaigning Begins
- **February 15:** Primary Voting opens at 7:00 am and ends on February 18 at 5:00 pm
- **February 19:** Election Results will be posted to the Elections Website by 5:00 pm
- **February 22:** General Election Voting opens at 7:00 am and end on February 25 at 5:00 pm
- **February 26:** Elections Results announced - time and place TBA

**Mandatory events and expectations, if elected:**

- **March 8th and 15th:** Training on ASUU Assembly policies and procedures (5:00pm-7:00pm each day)
- **March 10th and 17th:** Training on ASUU Senate policies and procedures (5:00pm-7:00pm each day)
- **April 16:** Inauguration
- **May 11th, May 12th, August 16th, and August 17th :** ASUU Training for ALL elected and appointed officers, all day location TBD

**Note:** The ASUU Attorney General is expected to attend all ASUU Assembly and Senate meetings as part of their role. If you are running for the AG position, you should keep your Tuesday evenings and Thursday evenings open for the 2020-2021 school year, as Assembly meetings always take place on Tuesday evenings and Senate meetings always take place on Thursday evenings.

A note on required post-election meetings: attendance at required post-election meetings is

considered part of the duties of elected officers, and failure to attend these meetings may impact your ability to serve. If there are extenuating circumstances preventing you from attending these meetings, an explanation and/or appropriate documentation must be provided to the Legislative Advisor at [afeenstra@sa.utah.edu](mailto:afeenstra@sa.utah.edu).

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**Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic:**

All elections and campaigning procedures will take place in compliance with COVID-19 regulations. This may result in a fully virtual elections season. The Elections Registrar will keep candidates up to date on how elections will proceed. Such announcements will be delivered over Canvas.

**Helpful Links and Other Info:**

- [Redbook](#) (ASUU Constitution & Bylaws)
- [ASUU Public Agendas & Documents](#) (contains information on current Assembly/Senate legislation, sign in with your uNID and password to access)
- [ASUU 2020-2021 Finance Guidelines](#)
- [University Student Code of Conduct](#) \*Note: the Code of Conduct still applies in virtual settings.
- [University Free Speech Policy](#)
- [University Conflict of Interest Policy](#)