

Singh Ticket

To the Student Body @ *The University of Utah*,

Most of us are quick to notice things that cause us dissatisfaction. Some of us are even brave enough to call them out. The Singh Ticket is no different. During our time on-campus, we have found ample things to worry about. Parking lots are ripped out despite perpetual parking shortages, sprinklers seem intent on watering sidewalks, shuttles serve as a slightly slower alternative to walking, state legislatures relish abolishing certain study-programs, clubs never have enough funding, students suffer at the hands of criminals . . . the list continues *ad infinitum*.

Talking about these problems is good. It brings awareness to these issues. Bring enough of it to bear and someone higher-up may even lend a sympathetic ear to the cause. That, of course, is all one can hope to accomplish by employing only such methods. Good but not good *enough*. Far better would be to take a step further – to enact tangible solutions that fix the problems at hand.

The Singh Ticket aims to do exactly that. Students prefer their parking lots intact, so let us give them a vote in the U's physical development planning process. The U's Impact 2030 plan aims to “reduce reliance upon single-occupancy vehicles.” With or without a car, we still need to reach our beloved mountain destinations. Establishing a year-round bus service to-and-fro the resorts would relieve those left with walking as their only option. State legislatures seek to abolish “low ROI academic programs.” Let us convince them that ROI is not the only reason one partakes in education. Clubs must spend out-of-pocket before winning ASUU funding. Why not give a proven few of them permission to fund events directly out of ASUU resources? They can even avoid paying sales tax that way. UUPD data indicate specific on-campus areas as hotspots for crimes like sexual batteries and harassment. Why not assemble an ad-hoc committee to investigate such affairs and recommend improvements to existing safety structures? These are but a few items on our agenda.

Perhaps all this seems too good to be true. One learns, after all, to take the promises of politicians with a grain of salt. Not only that, with advocacy being its primary tool, ASUU hardly has a mandate to directly enact these changes even if it wanted to. Further, is it not just *student* government? A safe-space for students to LARP as government officials – perhaps adorn their resumés while they are at it?

Nearly three years ago, a bitter and ignorant Sunny would have agreed. Now, nothing else seems further from the truth. ASUU is responsible for, among other things, securing a \$42.5 million bond from the Utah legislature to fund the Student Life Centre – a facility most of us take for-granted. ASUU also secured a \$3 million donation from the Eccles foundation to fund Campus Recreation Services – taking burden off student-fees for years to come. It established the “ASUU Marriott Library Tutoring Centre,” which is proudly known today as the “Learning

Centre.” It won \$13.5 million in direct funding from the Utah legislature to renovate the School of Nursing.

Any organization lucky enough to exist for a long time may end up with a few highlights in its past. To the more skeptical, achievements in recent history are what really count. Thankfully, ASUU does not lack them either. Anyone navigating to the ASUU website will see a list of discounts at local businesses available to students through their U card. These were, by and large, organized by the very current year’s presidency and their cabinet. Current ASUU leaders have already kick-started a plan to give students votes in the development of a new “Landscape Master Plan” to solve the sprinkler problem aforementioned. We can go on for pages, but platform statements can only be so long.

In light of ASUU’s achievements both past and current, the Singh Ticket’s ambitions seem downright tame – and that much more plausible. We have researched how ASUU secured these victories in the past, and have made plans to replicate those methods. In summary, we know exactly what works when it comes to finding solutions behind our sentiments.

Sincerely,
Sunny Singh, Olivia Saenz, Elle Williams
The Singh Ticket
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