



## SGA candidates presenting ideas before March 3 debate

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Time is winding down before Student Government Association's presidential debate March 3 and the election March 8-9. Former Senate Vice Chairman Dillon Johnson and Committee on Student Organizations Chairman Andrew Steadley are presenting their ideas to voters with two weeks left before the election.

"It'll be here before you know it," Johnson said. "We're just enjoying it, trying to just get our message across and let people know what we're about."

Johnson and his running mate Ridge Howell released their complete campaign platform Feb. 9, and Johnson said they have been spreading the word across campus about their ideas for SGA.

One of their goals is to work with OSU administration to let students see course evaluation results, Johnson said. Course evaluations ask students to rate professors and classes on a scale of one to five. The idea is to let students see the average numerical rating from the evaluations, Johnson said.

"I feel like that if you were to put (the ratings) all together in like an average score, I feel like that would be a system which students could get a better idea of what the course is like, of what the professor is like," Johnson said. "I think an important step toward helping students do well in the classroom is giving them a better idea of what they're getting into."

Johnson said this program could be more effective than professor rating websites because it is based on data instead of stories students post online.

The pair also wants to create an interest inventory for new students during orientation, according to their campaign platform.

Students would take the poll to narrow down all the organizations at OSU to show the clubs that suit their interests. This could help students plug into campus and feel a sense of belonging, Johnson said.

Other ideas from the platform include promoting student-centered programming with the Athletic Department, examining student advising and bringing diversity to student government.

Johnson said the best way to bring these ideas to fruition is to work hand-in-hand with the university administration. He said he is confident everything in the platform is doable.

"I don't want to put anything down on paper for our platform that I didn't feel like we could accomplish in our year in our administration," Johnson said. "They are all within the scope of student government."

On the other side of the ballot, Steadley released his campaign platform for the SGA election last week, and it's not short on sweeping reforms.

Some of the biggest adjustments Steadley and running mate Solmaz Bastani have planned are on-campus parking reform, campus safety reform and military priority enrollment, among other ideas.

"As president, there's nothing I can't touch on campus, and I don't think past presidents have taken the opportunities given them in that position enough," Steadley said.

One of Steadley's plans is campus parking reform. The campaign's plan is to designate parking lots near residential halls for students who live in those buildings, Steadley said. There will be visitor's spots available for anyone visiting from off-campus or from other dorms.

Bennett Hall already uses this parking plan, and it has its own parking passes for its residents. Steadley said he wants to test the same plan with other residence halls and possibly all residential parking.

The director of OSU Parking and Transit confirmed he and Steadley have met several times to discuss the idea. Steve Spradling said he is open to looking at how the department could apply the plan to residential areas.

"I'm open to the ideas if students want to change things, but every time you change one thing, then it has an effect on something else, and sometimes you don't see it coming before you do it," Spradling said.

Spradling said Steadley and Bastani's plan could work in certain areas, such as University Commons, where a residence hall is more isolated.

Parking could become more confusing in areas where there are several dorms close together, Spradling said. The Kerr-Drummond and Scott-Parker-Wentz areas are examples of several dorms sharing the same parking lots. Steadley said a possible solution would be to put more faculty parking in the Stout Parking Garage to open up staff lots near the dorms.

"I think it would open a lot of parking down south, and it would make a more structured system where you don't have people saying, 'I live in Wentz, but now I'm having to park half a mile away in overflow,'" Steadley said. Steadley's platform doesn't stop there with significant changes.

They also suggest setting up cameras across campus for safety reform. Steadley also said he also wants to take a hard look at how well the Safe Walk program and the Orange Shield app are benefiting campus safety.

Other ideas from the platform include military priority enrollment, giving veterans or ROTC members advanced enrollment either just before or after dates for Honors College students, Steadley said.

Steadley said another point of emphasis is representing greater diversity in student government and on campus.

"If I can become president, all of these are 100 percent implementable," Steadley said. "All it requires really is me sitting down with administrators, saying, 'Hey look, this is what I want to do. This is what the students want. Give me something. Meet me in the middle. Do something.'"