RHA Executive Board Election Bid for Leadership Coordinator
Annelise Cummings
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Introduction
The purpose of this document is to outline my goals, qualifications, and past experiences, respond to the expectations for this position, and persuade you that I am qualified for this position of Leadership Coordinator for the RHA executive council board for 2014-2015.

Personal and Academic Background
At the University of Oregon, I am majoring in Pre-Engineering with potential minors in Mathematics, Music, and/or Digital Arts. Over the years I’ve built bridges between the arts and sciences, in order to allow myself and others to thrive between these two worlds.

I have passions for both media and science and my extracurricular activities reflect that. I have been involved in many scientific endeavors including (but not limited to) creating a web application to support physicians in prescribing insulin to their patients using tested guidelines. Other projects include testing YouTube videos for flashing images to protect individuals with photosensitive epilepsy and correlating song lyrical content with narcissism trends in the United States. In the art world, I created a few short films and lead the rhythm section of an award winning jazz band.

I have spent the majority of my time in the physics department. This year, I am a part of the Clark’s Honors College, College Scholars Program, RHA Hall Government (Global Scholars Hall), and the RHA Presidential Cabinet working with the Intellectual Connections Committee. Through out all these activities, I have actively made connections with campus staff members whose goal is to keep students engaged at the university. From Roger Thompson (Vice President for Enrollment Management) to Courtney Jellar (Councilor and Advisor in the Accessible Education Center), these connections have allowed me to succeed and given me perspective on how I can connect others to these supportive individuals.

Through these activities I have strived to master the content and convey my story in the most honest manner possible. In order to accomplish this goal, I have strived to be a collaborative leader and allow all voices to be heard while also moving the project forward in a timely manner.
List of Past Experiences
Below is a short collection of activities and positions I have been involved with in the past 5 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013 Rose Festival Court – City of Portland</td>
<td>March 2013 to March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MyInsul.in – Insulin Dosing Guide for Physicians</td>
<td>October 2012 to Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Bowl Coach for Middle and High School Students</td>
<td>September 2010 to January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen and Sophomore High School Class Cabinet (Publicity Representative and Treasurer respectively)</td>
<td>September 2009 to June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director and Producer for award winning short films</td>
<td>2010, 2012</td>
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Activities in RHA

Hall Government
A resident in Global Scholars Hall on campus, I take on the role of Hall Senator for 5 North. Though I do not have an official position description in the hall, I have received the respect of my peers in planning events and providing services at minimal cost to the hall. As a hall, we have completed a variety of events ranging from dances to yoga classes during dead week. Plans for spring term include a game night, hall dance, staff appreciation day, and a BBQ that will feature a talent show to allow residents to show off their talents to their peers.

Due to the cast of characters in the hall government and the loud voices they use, I have chosen to take a quiet leadership role in the hall. By focusing on revising their ideas and supplementing them with my own, I have managed to keep alive requested events in the halls as well as provide services that supplement the main event’s activities (facilitating and providing services for photography at a Winter dance with Walton North and GSH). My goal was always to challenge my peers thinking so we could create events that would not only be meaningful to us, but also residents from different cultural backgrounds and interests.

Presidential Cabinet
Working with Kelly (the RHA executive board president) and Kevin Hatfield (the Assistant Director of Residence Life in the Area of Global Citizenship) I meet weekly with the Intellectual Connections Committee weekly as well as update the RHA General Council and the rest of the Presidential Cabinet. Primarily a communication position, I have been able to participate in conversations to develop programs for faculty and student staff through conversations on the partnership with the Teaching and Learning Center and the growth of the Faculty Fellows program.

Commitments in 2014-2015 School Year
Aside from a full course load to prepare myself for completing a pre-engineering degree, I will be teaching a course in the honors college. As CHIP leader, I will be teaching a class of about 19 incoming freshmen about media and science and the relationships between the two mediums in order to create a community and educate them on what they can gain from working with individuals in these fields.
Goals and Expectations for this Position

Expectations for this Position
The primary expectations for this position as outlined on the RHA website are as follows:

- Planning Hall Government training in the fall of 2014
- Planning three leadership in-services throughout the school year
- Running a weekly leadership committee
- Planning and running a leadership retreat off campus during the winter term

Goals for this Position
The primary objective for this position is to connect individuals interested in being leaders with one another and educate them on how to effectively communicate information with their respective communities.

A multifaceted problem of how to effectively communicate healthy leadership styles to residents, emphasis in leadership programs will be based on being respectful of other individual’s socioeconomic background, sexual identity, race, cultural background, etc. Being respectful of an individual’s values while also leading them to a shared goal is extremely important and is a focal point of my goals for this position.

Secondary goals include teaching students how to teach themselves new skills, methods to acquire information in unfamiliar fields, how to recognize individuals who know more than they do, and how to assist students who are struggling without making the student feel inferior. By doing this, potential leaders will be equipped with general skills that can be applied to any occupational field they choose in the future.

Final Thoughts
I sincerely hope that this introduction has been insightful and reflects my commitment to this program and this position at large.

If you have any additional questions for me prior or after the election, please feel free to email me at: acummin7@uoregon.edu.

Thank you for considering me for this position.
Letter of Recommendation

April 7, 2014

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Annelise Cummings as the Leadership or Administration Coordinator for the Residence Hall Association at the University of Oregon. As her advisor as the 5N Senator for the Global Scholars Hall (GSH) since October of 2013, I can say with complete confidence that her ability to think critically, desire to connect residence life to academics, and high expectations for herself and her peers, will allow her to be successful in either of these positions.

I began working with Annelise in October of 2013 when she was appointed the Senator for 5N in GSH. Since the beginning of the year, Annelise has been the team member of the GSH hall government who is not afraid to ask difficult questions. When the group is going in a direction that seems different than what they had previously been decided to pursue or, perhaps, is not considering how a decision might have an effect on all participants, Annelise brings the matter to the group’s attention. Just last Tuesday, she successfully advocated to keep an event on the schedule and cited evidence for its importance in the community. Her ability to see from various perspectives allows her to critically assess the group’s direction, which would serve her well as an Executive Board member of RHA.

In addition to Annelise’s ability to think critically, she is also invested in connecting residence life to the academic mission of the institution. Next year, Annelise will serve as a Residential CHIP Leader, or a student who teaches a one-credit class in the Honors College to a group of students who will live together on the same floor in GSH. She also currently serves as the Intellectual Connections Coordinator for RHA’s Presidential Cabinet. This investment in creating learning opportunities for herself and fellow residents make her a unique candidate for either the Leadership Coordinator or Administration Coordinator for next year’s RHA.

Finally, Annelise holds herself, the GSH hall government, and the university as a whole, to high expectations. She recently did not have her expectations met in an interaction with an office on campus. As she was expressing her dissatisfaction to me, it made me acutely aware of how valuable her voice could be as an advocate for residential students.

I have had the opportunity to observe both Annelise’s quiet leadership style as well as her organizational skills this year as the Senator for 5N. I am confident that she would excel in either position if elected. Please do not hesitate to contact me should any questions about Annelise’s candidacy arise.

Yours sincerely,

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