

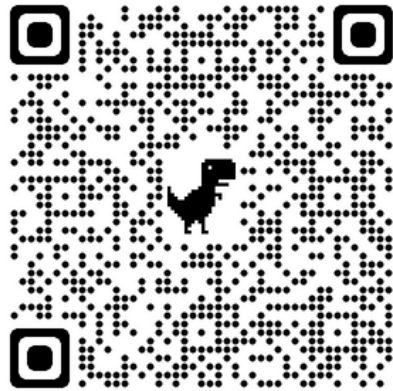
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October 18, 2023; 12 p.m. HWCC 312

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## Interested in Participating in Mock Convention?

Scan this QR code to be added to our email list, where you will stay up to date on upcoming events and opportunities to get involved!



Also follow us on instagram  
**@owumockconvention2024!**

### Upcoming Events

- **Platform Hearing #3:** November 2, 4-6 p.m.; Benes Room B
- **Debate Watch Party:** November 8, time TBD; Smith Stairs

# Morality in Politics



**Dr. Ashley Biser**, Charles W. Fairbanks  
Associate Professor of Politics & Government

**Dr. Krystal Cashen**, Assistant Professor of  
Psychology

**Dr. Ashley Kennard**, Assistant Professor of  
Communication

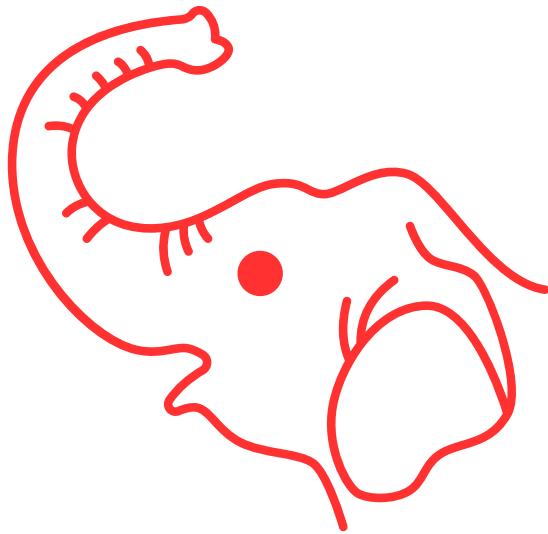
**Jason Timpson**, Director of Multicultural  
Student Affairs

**OWU Mock Convention 2024**  
**Platform Hearing #2**

# OWU Mock Convention 2024

*"The elephant in the room"*

Every presidential election cycle, OWU Mock Convention represents whichever major party is not currently in control of the White House. This year, it is the Republican Party. As such, this hearing will focus on the platform of the Republican Party concerning moral issues in politics, as well as the issue stances of each candidate in the primary election.



# Expert Spotlights



Dr. Biser teaches a wide range of political theory courses, including Democracy and Its Critics, Classical Issues in Political Theory, American Political Thought and Political Theory, Science and Technology. She also teaches the introductory politics and government course, and has led a Travel-Learning Course to Athens, Greece, to study theories of citizenship. Biser's research interests are in contemporary political theory, focusing on the works of Hannah Arendt and Martin Heidegger.



Dr. Cashen's research focuses on development in LGBTQ+ parent and adoptive families. In particular, her research examines how experiences unique to these family contexts (e.g., stigmatization, community connections) shape outcomes such as identity development and close relationships in emerging adulthood. She takes a mixed-methods approach to her research by regularly incorporating both qualitative and quantitative research methods.



Dr. Kennard focuses on conveying the applicability of communication concepts to the real-world while challenging students to think critically about communication theories. Her teachings and research are centered on intercultural and intergroup communication, attitudes and persuasion, media effects, and health communication; particularly how each of these pertain to conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Jason Timpson is Director of Multicultural Student Affairs, including the Women's Center, Spectrum and Global Majority initiatives. OMSA's goal is to support students of historically unrepresented backgrounds graduate, and promote community building, wellness, the pursuit of joy, and the movement toward thriving in all environments. Some of his signature programs include the Summer Bridge Program, Welcome Week drag show, Global Majority Block Party, Showcasing D9 Greek Life, "What Up Wednesdays" newsletter, the Lavender and Multicultural graduation ceremonies.



## Donald Trump

- Former President of the United States

Donald Trump has changed his views on multiple social questions over the last few years. He has been a noted opponent of the LGBTQ+ community, passing legislation while president that discriminated against the LGBTQ+ community or voting against discrimination-punishing bills like the Equality Act. He has also specifically stated that he would ban gender-affirming care. During his campaign for and following his loss in the presidential election of 2020, Trump has called the election system rigged, broken, and unethical. He purports that he won the election. He currently is being prosecuted in a number of different trials, including a trial concerning his election interference during the 2020 race and a Georgia lawsuit involving false elector racketeering orchestrated by Trump. Trump has encouraged defunding the Department of Justice and the FBI, which he has labeled corrupt.

**\*Information gathered from candidate's campaign website.\***



## Ron DeSantis

- 46th Governor of Florida
- Former Representative for Florida's 6th Congressional District

Ron DeSantis, recently, has had the stance that he will actually do what Trump promised he would do during the former president's tenure. He additionally believes that other states ran the 2020 election improperly, and Florida was the gold standard in the election process as it voted for Donald J. Trump. However, he is a strong opponent to LGBTQ+ and wishes to stop the spread of "woke". He finds that LGBTQ+ and "woke" ideals are harming the children in the United States and that they should be stopped at all levels. As the governor of Florida, he has passed the "Stop WOKE Act", which forbids schools and businesses from offering "anti-racist" training. It aimed to prevent "woke indoctrination" that could make individuals feel guilty based on their race, sex, or national origin. Ron DeSantis also passed the "Parental Rights in Education" bill in 2022, which bans any discussions on sexual orientation in any classroom. DeSantis has passed many other legislations as well, such as the "Fairness in Women's Sports Act" and the "Treatments for Sex Reassignment" bill.

**\*Information gathered from candidate's campaign website.\***



## Nikki Haley

- Former Governor of South Carolina
- Former United States ambassador to the United Nations

Haley opposes abortion rights, explaining that her opposition is rooted in her past difficulty conceiving children, as well as the fact that her husband is adopted. "I'm so blessed to see their faces every day," "This is not a partisan thing. It's not a man or a woman thing. I appreciate life and I'm forever blessed for those things in my life." Haley has been loud in her opposition to LGBTQ+ issues, opposing initiatives such as allowing transgender kids to participate in sports to supporting a more extreme version of DeSantis' "Don't Say LGBTQ+" bill.

\*Information gathered from candidate's campaign website.\*



## Tim Scott

- Senator from South Carolina
- Former Representative for South Carolina's 1st District
- Former South Carolina State Representative

Tim Scott has proudly declared himself a supporter of traditional conservative values. He supports "traditional Christian values," which he has extended to anti-LGBTQ+ views. He has been noted for supporting a "traditional" marriage of a man and woman. Scott also has come out against the January 6th Insurrection, though he has largely avoided condemning former President Trump for it. He has stated that the rioters are more to blame than the former president, but has also declared that he does not believe the election was stolen. While serving in the Senate, he was not among those who voted to overturn election results

\*Information gathered from candidate's campaign website.\*



## Mike Pence

- Former Vice President of the United States
- Former Governor of Indiana
- Former Representative for Indiana's 2nd and 6th Districts

Pence strongly opposes abortion and has been perhaps the most outspoken Republican candidate about the issue as many of his GOP rivals have avoided staking out a clear position on abortion. Mike Pence has sought to dehumanize and demean LGBTQ people at every opportunity. From his years in Congress to his time as Governor and his current role facilitating many of Trump's anti-LGBTQ actions, Mike Pence has been a willing and eager participant in the campaign against LGBTQ equality.

**\*Information gathered from candidate's campaign website.\***



## Chris Christie

- Former Governor of New Jersey
- Former United States Attorney for New Jersey

Chris Christie is a vocal opponent of President Trump, separating himself from the field by repeatedly attacking the former president's exit from the White House and subsequent actions. He has encouraged an abandoning of Trump and denounced the actions of January 6th, including the former president's role in the insurrection. On LGBTQ+ issues, Chris Christie has a complicated history. He signed multiple pro-LGBTQ+ bills as governor but has also recently come out with anti-transgender rhetoric that muddies his stance. He has stated that gender-affirming care should be the responsibility of parents and that the federal government has no right to get involved in what a family chooses to do.

**\*Information gathered from candidate's campaign website.\***



**Vivek Ramaswamy**  
• Entrepreneur

Vivek Ramaswamy believes that Donald Trump won the 2020 election and has stated that Mike Pence missed “a historic opportunity to unite this country. He believes absentee and mail in ballots are the source of rampant election fraud, and we need to rework these programs to not allow for long stretches of time for voting. He originally condemned January 6th and criticized election deniers in his book, “Nation of Victims”, but he has turned around and now has the opposite view 2 years later. He has stated he’s committed to pardon former president Trump if he is ever elected president. Vivek Ramaswamy additionally opposes transgender rights, stating that, “there are two genders”. He additionally sees the trans identity to be a mental illness and has called the LGBTQ+ movement a “cult” that wants to “force everyone else to bend the knee to its confused belief system.” He believes that we should not allow for any accommodations in schools or workplaces for trans-identifying people, neither in the bathroom nor in sports.

**\*Information gathered from candidate’s campaign website.\***



**Doug Burgum**  
• 33rd Governor of North Dakota

Mr. Burgum signed a near-total abortion ban in North Dakota in April — it makes exceptions for rape or incest only in the first six weeks of pregnancy, and allows abortions after that point only to prevent “death or a serious health risk” — but has said in multiple interviews that he believes such bans should be passed only at the state level. As governor of North Dakota, Doug Burgum signed at least eight bills restricting the rights of transgender or gender-nonconforming people in 2023, more than almost any other governor. Among them were measures that banned transition care for minors, restricted transgender people’s sports participation and their use of bathrooms in state facilities, defined sex as immutably set at birth, required schools to inform parents of students’ “transgender status” and allowed public school personnel to refuse to use students’ chosen pronouns.

**\*Information gathered from candidate’s campaign website.\***