

special edition **asun election 77**

Apathy, fees major campaign issues

Editor's note: The Innocents Society, UNL senior honorary, distributed the following questions to the four ASUN presidential candidates this week.

Responses are printed as written by the candidates except where edited because of space limitations. Candidates were told that the *Daily Nebraskan* reserved the right to exercise editorial control over the comments so they would conform to style.

The Innocents conducted the survey as a public service. Questions were decided by the Innocents in conjunction with the *Daily Nebraskan*.

Topics were selected to focus on what Innocents thought were important issues and to demonstrate the candidates knowledge of those issues.

Students should ask the candidates more questions themselves, if questions are not answered to their satisfaction, according to the Innocents.

What do you see as the most important issues in the campaign and why?

Carstenson: Apathy, FAB (Fees Allocation Board), student as consumer, until we deal with student apathy we will be unable to effectively do anything. Last year approximately 13 per cent of the students voted. This is a sad commentary on student government.

Concerning fees: in the early 70s student fees were taken away from the students. The student attitudes at that time were radically different from those of our own today. The (NU) Board of Regents moved to quell the outbreak of student activism by taking away from students the right to administer their own fees.

The time for that has passed and it is imperative that control of our fees be returned to us. We can retain FAB (Fees Allocation Board) in its present function. We should remove the ultimate responsibility of approving FAB from the chancellor's duty of the students via FAB.

In any campaign for ASUN the quality of academics should be an issue. We should make a directed effort toward developing an attitude of student as the consumer by making students have a consumer-like responsibility toward their education, a more quality based program will result.

Hemphill: I see four major issues in this campaign:

1. Rising above the current student apathy.
2. The inequities resulting from the Greek Slate.
3. The problems within the ASUN constitution that need amendments.
4. Student control over the Nebraska Union, its policies, and how its money is spent.

Johnson: The most important issue in this campaign is how ASUN might be reorganized and redirected so it can serve the student body. We must have a student government that promotes the welfare of the students.

Other important issues in this campaign are:

1. The quality of education at UNL. Faculty salaries are too low, professor/student ratios are too high resulting in a declining quality of undergraduate education. ASUN should be working for quality education.
2. The current level of tuition and fees at UNL is the second highest in the Big 8 (Conference). UNL students are already financing more than their share of the cost of a state supported education.
3. ASUN is not providing the level of government services that it should provide. A tenant/apartment referral service would be one of these services as would an improved ASUN book exchange.

Musselman: Student apathy is by far the biggest problem, and thus, the most important issue. If the student body doesn't care about what its "government" (I use the term loosely) does, we will never be able to better our lots here.

How might you save students' money?

Carstenson: I think an active ASUN would go a long way in saving students money. Again this will not result unless we have a leader in the role of president.

Hemphill: Careful consideration of any fee increases in the Board of Regents. Make the Union Bookstores competitive and integrate the ASUN Book Exchange into the bookstore. Use the Government Liaison Lobby of ASUN to fight budget cuts that mean increased tuition or lower educational quality.

Johnson: The first area is keeping student fees and tuition at their present level.

The second is ASUN survey of classes and professors. This would be a student evaluation of professors and classes. The results of this evaluation would be made public so the students would have a better idea of what type of class or professor they are registering for. This would save students money and time by eliminating the costly hassle of drop and add.

ASUN could also save students money by developing a comprehensive listing of various types of financial aid. Scholarships, grants, student work/study and jobs would be listed. This would provide students with a comprehensive financial aid service.

Another way ASUN could save students money is by expanding and improving the ASUN book exchange. This would provide students with an alternative to the high costs of textbooks.

Musselman: Eliminate the FAB and CSL, and transfer

their powers to the ASUN Senate, to give the senators something to do. Give the student body the ultimate power to lower fees going to student organizations, thereby lowering fees charged to individual students.

What are some realistic steps that ASUN can take to improve undergraduate education?

Carstenson: 1. Ensure that the role of the teacher is emphasized as are the other functions of faculty such as research and service.

2. ASUN should work to reduce, where possible, reliance on graduate assistants. This needs to be done in close cooperation with the Graduate Student Association.

All of the above suggestions can become reality only if there is a conscious effort by all elements of the university community.

Hemphill: 1. Place pencil sharpeners in every classroom.

2. Continue and expand faculty and course evaluations
3. Coordinate actions of advisory boards, the regents, the administration, Faculty Senate, and ASUN.

Johnson: 1. ASUN could implement a student evaluation of faculty classes. The results of this evaluation would be compiled in a booklet and distributed to the students.

2. ASUN should recommend higher faculty salaries. Merit salary increases to our superior faculty members would aid in improving the quality of our faculty members, thus improving the quality of undergraduate education.

3. ASUN should be an advocate for quality education to the administration, Board of Regents, the state government and to the people of Nebraska.

4. ASUN should lend support to non-traditional educational programs. ADAPT, University Studies and Centennial College offer students a choice in educational experiences and deserve ASUN's support.

Musselman: Distribute money and time to student academic organizations. Since ASUN obviously has little if anything to do with academics, there isn't much it could do, or should do.

Comment on the present status and future of non-traditional educational programs (University Studies, Centennial, ADAPT, etc.)

Carstenson: I support the concept of fellowship learning as is in effect in Centennial. Also I endorse and support innovative educational programs for freshmen like ADAPT. University Studies is a self-planned program and I feel this academic freedom is necessary at the university. I also support freshman intro. courses, integrated studies, pass/fail.

Hemphill: Continue and improve: Centennial College, ADAOT, NUSTEP, University Studies, and P/F options. Consider adding, to existing departments, some of the more popular Free University courses as credit classes.

Johnson: The present status of ADAPT, University Studies and Centennial College could be accurately described as being in a precarious balance. The university has not financed these programs at the levels that they deserve. Most of these innovative educational programs exist because a few dedicated faculty members donate their time and energy supporting them.

I believe these programs have a future. There is a need for these programs if UNL is to call itself a modern university.

Musselman: Non-traditional programs must be kept to satisfy those people who learn faster and better in a non-traditional atmosphere (different strokes for different folks). At the present time, no program has really made an impact on the average student who might benefit from such a program. At the present rate in the future these programs will be all but worthless to everybody save for a student intellectual elite.

Do you intend to reorganize student government? If so, how?

Carstenson: I feel reorganization of student government is important and now. My record on this is clear. I introduced a resolution calling for a task force to be established to do just that. We need to find a way to bring all student governmental operations into a more organized and cohesive operation. As student government is now, the overall bureaucracy is much too diverse. We need to implement more unified, and thus, effective student government.

Hemphill: I intend to re-establish the student cabinet and to call for a constitutional convention to rewrite sections to include the student regent, to modify the districts from which Senate is elected, and to more clearly define problem areas. I also plan to appoint senators to FAB, Union Board, etc. to keep them close to ASUN.

Johnson: 1. ASUN Senate should do the majority of its work in committee. This would allow the Senate to work efficiently.

2. Student fees should be controlled by the elected student government. Students must have more input in the allocation of their student fees.

3. Student out-of-classroom policy should also be decided by ASUN. The Council on Student Life is a body whose members are appointed, not elected.

4. The total student government picture at UNL is in a state of confusion. I would appoint an independent commission to study the problem and propose improvements.

Musselman: Of course. As I previously mentioned, the Fees Allocation Board and Council on Student Life would be phased into the ASUN Senate. Also, all other such student government organizations will be investigated to determine their worth. The Senate should have representatives selected on a geographic basis (dorms, greek houses, off-campus) instead of an academic basis. Also, I see no reason why our government needs two vice-presidents.

Absentee ballots, voting booth sites

Three polling places are available for students voting in the ASUN general election March 16.

Students may vote at the Nebraska Union, the Nebraska East Union or Nebraska Hall between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Each student can only vote once and must present his student identification card.

Students who will not be in Lincoln during the scheduled polling times because they are on an officially recognized university trip may vote by absentee ballot.

Those voting by absentee ballot must state the official function on a form supplied by the ASUN secretary. Their signature must be notarized by 4 p.m. March 11.

Students confined to the University Health Center (UHC) or to a hospital on election day may vote by calling the ASUN secretary before noon March 16. A ballot will be brought to the student before 9 p.m. election day.

An ASUN sample ballot, listing all candidates, was printed in Thursday's *Daily Nebraskan* and will be printed again Monday.

