

Beecher, Baldwin dominate final debate

Senators Roy Baldwin and Bruce Beecher fielded most of the questions from an audience of about 65 students at Tuesday night's final ASUN presidential debate in the Abel-Sandoz dormitory cafeteria.

The other two ASUN presidential candidates, Sen. Bill Schwartzkopf and Sen. Steve Christensen participated only occasionally.

In the two-hour discussion, Beecher said a handout printed by Baldwin's All University Party (AUP) slandered himself and his Concerned Students Party (CS). "They misrepresented my stands on ASUN issues such as coed visitation; simply because they didn't qualify their statements," he added.

Beecher said he voted against an ASUN coed visitation resolution in which the Senate gave full support to the Residence Halls, because the resolution give Senate executives the power to spend as much money on the visitation confrontation as they wanted.

The senator said the dormitories represent only one fourth of University students and it wouldn't have been fair to spend an excessive amount on the visitation issue.

The AUP document stated without qualification that Beecher voted against the measure.

Beecher said the ASUN Senate should not have aligned itself with dormitory dwellers but played an intermediary role between students and administration.

Beecher wants to move the weekly meetings of the ASUN Senate from the Nebraska Union basement conference rooms to what is now a study room on the main floor. The senator said the study room is poorly located for studying because of noise from the nearby record store. "I think most students would like to get off in a secluded place to study such as conference rooms," he added.

Beecher said the main floor location of senate meetings would encourage students to drop in on the sessions.

Concerning student cooperative plans, Baldwin said members of his party would conduct an investigation this summer on the feasibility of a student bookstore.

Beecher said he has already done the initial research on some cooperative projects and would be ready to implement them this fall.

"We don't know exactly what students want and what the regents will allow in the way of cooperative projects," Baldwin added.

Beecher spoke against cutting the size of the

Senate, as the proposed new constitution would. The senator said the University of Maine has a 100-member student senate that has been very effective in representing about 10,000 students.

Baldwin said a smaller student government, as set up in the new constitution, would allow voters to get to know candidates for student government because there would be less of them. "Students would have no chance to interview candidates running for a 100-member Senate to see what their stands are on campus issues," he added.



Photo by Bill Ganzel

The last debate. . ASUN presidential candidates Bruce Beecher, Bill Schwartzkopf, Roy Baldwin and Steve Christensen.

New bylaws outline rights, responsibilities

by Carol Strasser

The first rough draft of new bylaws for the NU Board of Regents has been completed by the University Governance Committee established last spring.

The 140-page document outlines the rights and responsibilities of students, faculty and administrators.

The Governance Committee composed of students, faculty, administrators and regents' representatives is expected to revise the document and submit a final report to the regents in June, according to James A. Lake, president of the Faculty Senate and a member of the committee.

Lake has described the bylaws as a broad and general constitution for the entire University of Nebraska system. Each campus, Lincoln, Omaha and the Medical Center, must then write a second document of rules to fit its specific circumstances, he said.

As the document now stands, the regents must delegate to faculty and students the authority to develop systems of self-government, either in a separate or combined agency.

The faculty government would have the authority to adopt a code and procedures to protect academic freedom. Matters of academic freedom and faculty status, by a two-thirds vote of the governing body, could be appealed directly to the regents.

The student governing agencies are empowered to

set their criteria for student membership. Powers of the agencies include involvement in budgeting funds collected through student fees. Student representatives are empowered to serve on all committees relating to non-academic aspects of student life.

Under the section entitled "Rights and Responsibilities of Students," the University is required to publicize and make available all current rules, regulations and policies affecting students.

It states that admission to the University can't be denied on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religion, political beliefs or national origin.

In the academic area, students must be informed of the requirements, standards and evaluation procedures at the beginning of each course.

Each college or school must provide a faculty-student appeals committee for students who believe that the evaluation of their academic progress was "prejudiced or capricious." Procedures must be instituted to change the evaluation if the committee so determines.

Each campus is required to adopt rules relating to student discipline and activities in consultation with student representatives.

The document outlines the minimum procedures guaranteed a student prior to disciplinary action by University officials.

These include the student's right to be informed in writing of all charges and evidence, to present evidence in his behalf, to maintain his status in the University while the case is pending and the right to a hearing before a regularly constituted board.

At the hearing, the student would have the right to appear with an advisor of his choice, hear all evidence, question all witnesses, testify and present his own witnesses and to appeal the decision.

The document states that the burden of proof is on the person bringing the charge, and a decision by the regents must be "based solely on the evidence at the hearing."

Under the proposed bylaws, the University would be prohibited from duplicating civil authorities' actions against a student if the offense occurred off campus, unless the interests of the academic community are "clearly involved."

Confidential student files, including disciplinary procedures and counseling, wouldn't be released without the student's approval.

Occupants of University owned housing would be protected against unwarranted or unreasonable entry and search.

The document outlines procedures for faculty members to appeal dismissal from the University. Each campus is empowered to establish a grievance committee and academic freedom and tenure committee.

A staff member dismissed must be informed in writing of the cause and has the right to petition the grievance or academic freedom committee.

The University would have the burden of stating reasons justifying the dismissal and proving that "adequate cause exists."

In any procedures before the academic freedom committee, the dismissed person would have the right to representation by an advisor, present evidence and witnesses, cross-examine and to examine all documents.

However, Lake pointed out that, legally, the regents can't be bound by a decision of the committee since the Nebraska constitution vests final power in them.

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) chapter at UNL passed a resolution suggesting that the regents accept the academic freedom committee's decisions unless the regents state "strong and compelling reasons."

AFT also suggested that a provision be added to the bylaws which would allow for review of administration staff by faculty to determine their continuation in office.

Polling places

Polling places for the ASUN elections Wednesday are:
Nebraska Union, main lounge, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Nebraska Hall, 16th street entrance, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Andrews Hall, Room 102, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Hamilton Hall, East entrance, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
East Campus Union, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
M and N Building, Main entrance, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.