

ASUN candidates stress leadership

By Barb Richardson

All five ASUN presidential candidates stressed new responsible leadership yesterday during a debate sponsored by UPC Talks and Topics committee.

Following a five minute presentation by each of the candidates, a three member panel comprised of ASUN president Ken Marienau, UNL Innocents Society president Charlie Fellingham and *Daily Nebraskan* news editor L. Kent Wolgamott asked the candidates questions. Questions were then opened to the audience.

In his opening speech, SOAR candidate Joe Nigro said he feels the SOAR party is qualified because of experience. He said members of the party have served on ASUN as senators and as CFA members, as well as in other student government positions.

Bud Cuca, in his opening remarks, said "we're dedicated people whether we are candidates or not." Cuca was referring to a past alcohol bill similar to Sen. Ralph Kelly's bill that members of his party, SUN, lobbied against in 1976.

Problem source

Explaining the difficulty the SUN party had in getting their name to be SUN, Cuca said ASUN caused some of the problems for the party. He said two of the candidates running for president are members of ASUN.

"These guys aren't the solution to the problem they are the problem itself," Cuca said.

As president of ASUN, SINK candidate Henry Winkler said his party would support the regents.

"The regents have been pushed around by ASUN too long," he said.

Winkler also said that he felt he was qualified for the position of president because he is an elementary education major and able to "lead children."

Denny Wurtz, OSI candidate, said his party is more concerned with what the students want.

Wurtz said he wants to increase the quality of education at UNL. "We're willing to lobby the Legislature for changes," he added.

Innovative leadership was stressed by SAIL candidate Scott Brittenham. Brittenham said ASUN needs new ideas and leaders.

Recreation facility opinions

Opening the question period, Marienau asked how the candidates stand on a new recreation facility and if they were in favor of it and how they would fund it.

"SOAR has expressed a stand in favor of the recreation center," Nigro said.

He added that ASUN has taken a step in the right direction by setting up a committee to investigate a possible center.

Nigro said because the Legislature will not fund a recreation center, the money will have to come from student fees.

Cuca said his party is in favor of a new recreation facility. He said it could be funded by charging each student 96 cents extra on student fees.

The SINK party favors two new swing sets and a new slide that will be funded by begging on a street corner for four months," Winkler said.

Wurtz said that his party would put the question to the students.

"We feel it is totally up to the students," he said.

The SAIL party opposes a new recreation facility, candidate Brittenham said. He said that his group is opposed to funding a facility through student fees that not all the students will use.

Committee structure stances

Fellingham asked how the candidates feel about ASUN's restructuring to create four commissions.

Brittenham said "I definitely feel it was a move in the right direction." He added that he would rather see the four commissions consolidated into one commission.

Wurtz said the restructuring does bring responsibility to ASUN. He said he thinks it is a good system and should be kept.

Winkler said his party would like to see ASUN have less power. He said that he would ask the regents what he should do.

Cuca said he is concerned that the organization is student oriented and there is not enough communication between the administration and the students. Cuca said he thinks the structure may separate the students from the people that make decisions, such as the administration.

"I was intensively involved in the restructuring and I'm damn proud of it," Nigro said. He said the move was made to consolidate student government.

Wolgamott then asked the candidates if they would change the student fee allocation made by the Committee on Fees Allocation given to ASUN.

"I think I would vote to overrule CFA," Nigro said. He said that he would have to go back and analyze cuts CFA made to see if they were justified.

"You can't be too definite on this until you see the budget," Cuca said.

"The regents would want us to abolish CFA," Winkler said. So, without CFA there would not be a problem.

"The Committee on Fees Allocation is an important part of the ASUN structure," Wurtz said. He added that he would analyze each budget provision one by one and determine the student needs first.

Brittenham said that he would determine if the cut was justified and then would honor their decision.

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