

Brown wins vice presidency

Cuca, Nigro meet in run-off election

By Shelley Smith

Because of no clear majority vote, a run-off election is scheduled April 11 between two ASUN presidential candidates.

Bud Cuca with the Students of the University of Nebraska (SUN) party and Joe Nigro with the Students Organized for Active Representation (SOAR) party are the two candidates who will compete.

The extra election is necessary because of a rule adopted by the NU Board of Regents last spring which requires that ASUN executive candidates win by a majority of the students voting.

To achieve this majority, the ASUN Electoral Commission adopted a new ballot system that permits voters to rank each candidate in preferential order.

System failed

However, because voters expressed no alternative preferences, chose one candidate four times, or chose less than four candidates, the system failed, according to Electoral Commissioner Susan Ugai.

After the count of first preference presidential votes, completed early Thursday morning, the tallies were: Nigro—1,090, Cuca—904, Scott Brittenham (SAIL)—331, Denny Wurtz (OSI)—322, and Henry (Bob) Winkler (SINK)—240. There were 63 write-in votes.

However a majority vote was received in the first vice presidential race and at 4 p.m. Thursday afternoon, Hubert Brown (SOAR) was officially declared the winner.

Brown is a junior journalism major and acting president of the Afro American Collegiate Society.

Nigro said he thought the presidential election would be close but said he didn't expect that a run-off election would be necessary. He said he would like to be done with the election completely over.

"Better chance"

However, Cuca said he was pleased with the result of another election because it "gives us a second chance—a better chance."

"If it gives us a shot at winning, then by God we'll do it," he said.

Both candidates said it might be difficult to generate as much interest in the second election as there was in the first. Wednesday's voter turnout was the highest since 1971 and was projected at about 18 percent by ASUN President Ken Marienau.

However, several of the losing candidates said they will throw their support and campaign with one of the two remaining candidates.

Scott Brittenham (SAIL) said he would support Cuca because of Nigro's actions in the past weeks.

SAIL supports Cuca

"Bud is the most qualified," he said.

"But the tactics Joe did in the last couple of weeks are going to change a lot of peoples votes," he added.

Brittenham said he was disappointed that he and his first vice presidential candidate Jon Pfeiffer lost the election, but added he was more upset by what Nigro has allegedly done.

He attributed his loss partly to the lack of support by the *Daily Nebraskan* endorsement editorial which named Nigro as the first choice and Cuca second.

"It hurt us immensely," Brittenham said.

He said this will end his political career and now he can start studying.

Henry (Bob) Winkler (SINK) also said he would support Cuca in the run-off race, because he felt that Cuca has "the right idea" about ASUN.

No expectations

Winkler, who proposed raising the drinking age to 30, the driving age to 21, building a roof over the stadium and supporting the NU Board of Regents, admitted that he did not expect to win.

"My personal goal was to bring the issues out in front of the student's eyes," he said.

Winkler added that he believed the SINK campaign added to the increase in voter turnout.

Hubert Brown said he will continue to support Nigro, and added that he will "work as hard for Joe as if I was still a candidate."

"Joe getting the presidency was my primary goal in joining the party," Brown said.

Money for run-off

ASUN treasurer and electoral commission delegate Scott Ballentine said he wasn't sure where the funds would come from for the run-off election, but said he hoped that Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Richard Armstrong could allocate some money out of the student fees contingency fund.

Ballentine said the commission already has gone "way over" its budget of \$2,000.

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Daily Nebraskan photo

SOAR presidential candidate Joe Nigro



Daily Nebraskan photo

SUN presidential candidate Bud Cuca

Grade officials propose changes

By Alice Hrnicek and
Barb Richardson

A proposal by the Faculty Senate Grading Committee initiating changes in three areas of UNL's grading system has met with varied reactions from students, faculty and officials.

The committee has proposed changes in policies regarding incomplete, pass/fail and withdrawals.

Two changes in the incomplete grading policy have been proposed.

First, the committee proposes that the student and faculty member sign a contract that clarifies what the student must do to erase his incomplete grade, when the course must be completed in not more than two years, the grade the student will be assigned if he or she does not complete the course and the percentage of course work that grade represents. Currently, there are no contracts for incompletes.

Second, if the student does not finish the work required for the course he will not receive a permanent incomplete, but will receive the grade that the instructor indicated on the contract.

GPA results

Presently, under the pass/fail system, if a student fails a course it affects his GPA. Also students may change from pass/fail to a grade or from a grade to pass/fail within an 8 week period. Under current practices what is considered a passing grade is at the discretion of each instructor at UNL.

The committee proposes that the "pass/fail" be changed to "pass/no pass," that a passing grade be a C or better and that after a week and one day a student registered for pass/no pass can not change from pass/no pass to a grade. A student will be able to change from a grade to pass/no pass during the first eight weeks of the semester.

Under the present withdrawal policy students may withdraw from a class until finals week of the semester. Under the Committee's proposal students may not receive a withdrawal, W grade, after the twelfth week.

Also under the proposal, a W grade will not be a grade an instructor may give a student without signing a drop form. Currently, instructors can give students a W as a grade without signing a drop form. The proposal will not affect complete withdrawal from the university.

Good students

Frank Gilfeather, Senate Grading Committee chairman, said the changes will be "least advantageous to the marginal student." Good students will only be affected for the better by the changes, he said.

"We, up until this time, had the weakest (grading) policy of the Big Eight schools," Gilfeather said about UNL's procedures. "It's my view that this change will move us right about in the middle as far as toughness."

Gilfeather said students are penalized because a failing grade affects their GPA while a passing grade does not under the present system.

He said the current pass/fail procedure is not fair because a passing grade is interpreted differently by different instructors.

He also said he thinks that changing a passing grade to a C or better is beneficial because a passing grade could be used as a prerequisite to courses that require a C or better in a previous class. It is a good change because passing grades of C or better will look better on records of students that transfer from UNL.

W instead of F

One of the problems with the present system, Gilfeather said, is that it allows some faculty members to give a W for a grade rather than an F. He said this is not fair to students in other classes that receive F's while other students get W's instead of an F.

When students withdraw from full classes, other students who would have taken the course and finished it are hurt, Gilfeather said. He added that the withdrawal policy also is a problem because students that withdraw from classes they are required to take later block other students from entering into the class because they must sign up for the class again.

"The three things put together, the new pass/no pass, incompletes, and withdrawal policies, will serve to the advantage of the students and faculty," said Gerald Bowker, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Nebraska and Colorado are the only two Big Eight schools that have "punitive" pass/fail systems, Bowker said. He explained that if students fail a course at Colorado or Nebraska, the grade counts against them on their GPA.

Make up grade

He said that most of the Big Eight schools, except one, require a contract for incomplete grades between the student and the faculty member. Nebraska allows the longest period, besides Oklahoma State, to make up an incomplete grade, Bowker said. Nebraska allows two years while Oklahoma State allows a maximum of three years to make up incomplete grades.

Bowker said that withdrawal policies in the Big Eight are varied. One school allows a student to withdraw out of a class on the last day of the semester while another school allows students to withdraw out of only seven classes their entire career.

Kent Whitacre, chairman of the Academic Policy Committee of ASUN, conceded that the new incomplete policy poses the least difficulties.

"This will eliminate some of the problems of people graduating with an I or the professor

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