

ASUN candidates have second-round meeting

By Mary Louise Knapp

ASUN presidential candidates participated in the second of three scheduled debates Thursday evening in Neihardt Hall.

The debate was sponsored by the Residence Hall Association and Neihardt students.

The eight candidates fielded questions from a panel of three students on a variety of topics such as the formation of a State Student Association, UNL's Affirmative Action program, international students and the proposed veterinary college at UNL.

Panelists were Barb Richardson, Daily Nebraskan columnist and research assistant for State Sen. Steve Fowler, Mark Hirschfeld, first vice president of ASUN, and Prabha Unnithan, president of the Nebraska Association of Sociology Graduate Students.

When asked his personal views on the formation of a State Student Association, Tom Vergith, candidate for the CURE (Coalition for University Revitalization) Party said he is "not at all supportive" of an SSA at this point. He said various factors such as cost to the students have to be taken into account before the CURE party will take a definite stand on the issue.

Vergith, an ASUN senator, said he voted to place the SSA issue on a referendum. Since that bill has a pocket veto from ASUN President Renee Wessels, he said although the issue will be on the ballot at the March 4 election, any decisions students make on it will not be binding.

Steve McMahon, candidate for the VOTE (Viable Opportunities for Total Efficiency) Party, said he would

not vote for an SSA at this point because too many questions about it have been left unanswered.

"We have not been told how SSA would be divorced from ASUN, or specifically what issues it will or will not address," he said.

Mike Frost, candidate for the STUPID (Students Taking Unlimited Part in Democracy) Party, advised spending the fees for the SSA on a salary for the ASUN president.

Eric Johnson, candidate for the Feminist-Socialist Party, endorsed the SSA, saying it is one way students in Nebraska can unite to make their views known. He said the SSA should join with the United States Student Association and should work with community groups.

Candidates were asked their views on the building of a veterinary college on East Campus.

Doreen Charles, candidate for the ARISE (Alliance of Rising Individuals Stressing Equality) Party, said UNL should consider its budget before building a veterinary college.

"We can't expect to add buildings when there is supposedly no money available," she said.

Rick Mockler, candidate for the SURE (Students United for Responsible Education) Party, said the proposed veterinary college is separate from the UNL budget and the university's request for an 18 percent budget increase should be taken into account before any additional funds are allocated.

The candidates were asked how they planned to deal with the NU Board of Regents.

Tim Higgins, candidate for the PURGE (Party for Urgent Redefinition of Government Expectations) Party,

said the NU Board of Regents will not listen to a minority of students, and ASUN, in its present form, is a minority.

"A referendum would carry a great deal of weight," he said.

Diane Walkowrak, the independent candidate, said students must make their feelings known to the regents by calling them, attending regents' meetings, and writing letters.

Johnson said dealing directly with the regents would not have much effect.

"The real power at UNL belongs to other people in Regents Hall—the Central Administration," he said. "You can't appeal to them." Johnson suggested tuition and fee strikes as one way of getting the administration to listen to student concerns.

The candidates were asked what they would do if the regents tried to pass a 25 percent tuition increase if they were elected.

Charles said she would first let students know what was happening and encourage them to write letters of protest and speak about the issue at regents' meetings.

"If that has no effect, we will organize a demonstration at Regents Hall," she said. If the demonstration had no effect, she said she would encourage students to participate in a "class strike" in which students would not attend classes until the regents reconsidered.

Mockler said since the regents normally make decisions concerning tuition increases in the summer, when most students are out of school, the best way to deal with it is to write letters to parents and students across the state, urging them to protest.

Candidates seek more important role for ASUN

Party to add to legal services

By Mary Louise Knapp

Editor's note: This is the last in a series of profiles on the ASUN presidential candidates. Two profiles have been published each day. The profiles appeared in the order the candidates' names appear on the ballot.

ASUN is an organization that exists primarily to serve the students and it is not serving students now, said Steve McMahon, ASUN presidential candidate.

McMahon, a candidate of the VOTE (Viable Opportunities for Total Efficiency) Party, said change is necessary to ensure ASUN begins to pursue the objectives for which it was created.

By expanding existing student services and creating new ones, the VOTE Party hopes to restore credibility and respect to ASUN, he said.

He said the creation of a department of criminal justice in the College of Arts and Sciences and a reworking of the present grade appeal system will result in improved services for students.

McMahon said that if elected he will try to make students more aware of benefits that already exist.

He said the ASUN Credit Union can only be effective if students are made aware of its benefits, such as paying a higher rate of interest on savings.

Expanding Student Legal Services to allow the legal service attorney to represent students in court in cases such as landlord-tenant problems and requiring all ASUN members to assist in the ASUN Book Exchange would be helpful, he said.

McMahon, a political science, English and philosophy major from Omaha, said he decided to run for the ASUN presidency because ASUN was wasting time on unimportant issues.

"I saw ASUN wasting time on things like investigating Ronald Roskens, and saw that a change was necessary," he said.

McMahon has been active in ASUN since last October, when he was appointed to a senate position.

He said that experience in student government could be detrimental to a new ASUN administration.

"That experience would be experience in the administration of an ineffective, inefficient student government," he said.

McMahon said in spite of his limited experience with ASUN, he has made many contributions to it.

"I was the first to express concern



Photo by Mark Billingsley
Steve McMahon, ASUN presidential candidate of the VOTE Party.

about expansion of Student Legal Services," he said.

McMahon was responsible for the hiring of Shelley Stahl, the new Legal Services attorney.

"I hired her with the stipulation that she present a proposal to the regents explaining why the attorney should be allowed to represent students in court," he said.

McMahon also introduced a bill in the ASUN Senate giving formal student support to the building of a new recreation center on City Campus.

McMahon said the regents' recent decision to eliminate salaries for the student president is "absolutely irrelevant to my campaign."

"I would seriously question the motives of anyone who is running for the sake of the salary," he said. "The money should make no difference in the amount of dedication (a candidate should have)."

Wendy Wiseman, a journalism major from Omaha, is the party's candidate for first vice president, and Mike Kratville, an economics, English, and political science major from Omaha, is VOTE's candidate for second vice president.

ARISE to take 'drastic steps'



Photo by Mark Billingsley
Doreen Charles, ASUN presidential candidate of the ARISE Party.

By Tom Prentiss

ASUN presidential candidate Doreen Charles said too many people are involved in ASUN for the wrong reasons.

Charles, the presidential candidate for the Alliance for Rising Individuals Stressing Equality (ARISE) Party said she thinks many people are in ASUN to fatten up a resume or just to hear themselves talk.

But Charles, a 20-year-old journalism major from Chicago, said the position of ASUN president is too important to take lightly.

"Students can't afford to have somebody have power without taking action," Charles said.

She said she doesn't think abolishing any part of ASUN would help students. It would take too long to rebuild, and policies could be passed that would limit what rights students had left, she said.

Charles said ASUN has not previously had anyone who was willing to take the drastic steps necessary to show the NU Board of Regents that students are dissatisfied.

"Yet, the regents have taken drastic

steps to keep students subjugated to them," she said.

By drastic, Charles said, she means using peaceful, non-compliance protests to take the issues to the public. Charles said she "would not bend to someone else's unjust rules."

She said she will work within the current structure, but added that when the "system becomes abusive, you can no longer work within it. When it no longer represents you as a person, it no longer has purpose."

Saying that she thinks she is the only candidate who makes sense, Charles said the ARISE platform points out several specific goals.

Among them are:

—Urging a four-payments-per-year plan for tuition be set up, similar to current housing payment structure.

—Working to obtain voting power for the ASUN president who serves as student regent on the Board of Regents.

—Advocating the divestiture of UNL and the NU Foundation investments from corporations in Third World countries.

Charles said her platform is based on students' needs. The platform states students "must have the freedom to exercise their rights as adults. The rules on this campus that are designed to treat students as children must be abolished."

Charles said she favors the proposed State Student Association, with reservations. If the SSA is created, Charles said, it must not become dominated by a select few, as she said ASUN has been.

Charles has been involved in the Residence Hall Association, is a past ASUN senator and is a member of the Afrikan Peoples Union. She also is a member of the Big Eight Council on Black Students.

She said the best ways to fight rules students think are wrong is to join forces with other NU agencies, such as faculty organizations, in order to protest.

A combination of groups like faculty members and taxpayers could show to the regents students have needs and those needs must be heard, Charles said.

"All students need is one victory, and then more and more will start wanting to get involved," Charles said.

She said she hopes to draw support from many students. She said the ARISE platform is the only party platform paying attention to the needs of international students on campus.