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Candidates for ASUN debate, answer questions

By Betsy Miller

Four sets of ASUN presidential and vice presidential candidates got a chance to express their views on university issues at a debate Tuesday afternoon in the Nebraska Union.

The debate, sponsored by the University Program Council's Talks and Topics Committee, featured candidates from the Working Coalition, True, Real and STUPID II parties.

The candidates answered questions from the audience, which numbered about 150, and from a panel composed of Kent Warneke, president of Innocents Society, Martha Murdock, editor of the Daily Nebraskan and Rick Mockler, ASUN president.

Several questions were asked about the Working Coalition's proposed constitutional amendment that would elect senators from living units rather than from colleges, as they currently are.

A woman, identifying herself as a criminal justice major, said her college's representation would suffer if senators were elected from living units. She said this was the first year there was a criminal justice senator and wondered if the loss of the criminal justice senator could be compensated for by a senator from a living unit.

Dave Mumgaard, Working Coalition presidential candidate, said the present system has not been effective in solving college problems and that college concerns could still be addressed with senators elected from living units.

"The students, no matter where they are, will still have representation," Mumgaard said.

Fran Grabowski, Working Coalition first vice presidential candidate, said if the amendment is defeated on the March 3 ballot, and the Working Coalition party is elected, the party will still try to get the amendments approved.

The small number of students running for senate positions this year was prompted by students "not willing to be involved," said Dan Wedekind, Real Party presidential candidate.

The senate must strengthen communication between students and itself to increase student participation in government, he said.

Mike Ford, True Party presidential candidate, said senate party differences do not hamper the way the senate works.

Grabowski said parties are not that important. "We're a coalition, not a party," he said.

Mike Frost, STUPID II Party presidential candidate, said the election of senators by zodiac sign would increase the number of students who run for the senate.

The four parties also stated the ideas they will follow in working with the NU Board of Regents.

"We need to get our student regents to have all 24,000 students behind them," Mumgaard said.

He said student regents can be most effective if they deal with the board on a few specific issues targeted for discussion.

Ford said his party wants to start campaigning for regents candidates who would benefit the students if elected.

The Real Party believes that the board tends to disregard student opinions and that the senate should align with people outside of the university to have more of an impact on the regents' decisions, Wedekind said.

Frost said the student regent should try "kicking and screaming," in dealing with the board.



Photo by Dave Bentz

ASUN presidential and first vice presidential candidates met in a debate Tuesday afternoon in the Nebraska Union. The debate was sponsored by the University Program Council's Talks and Topics Committee.

Senator proposes student loan bill

By Alice Hrnicek

Surprising the Education Committee at a Tuesday hearing, Sen. Sam Cullan of Hemingford presented a redraft of his LB946 that would establish a state loan authority instead of the originally proposed scholarship commission.

He calls it the Nebraska College Loan Financing Authority Act.

Cullan charged the bill, he said, because he didn't want to hurt existing agencies that help with federal Guaranteed Student Loans and other federal aid programs.

The bill would create a loan authority to sell revenue bonds to finance state-given loans. Loans would be available for all institutions of higher education in Nebraska, Cullan said.

The act is needed because federal student aid is threatened, Cullan said. Federal programs may soon exclude graduate and professional students from eligibility and may extend restricted income guidelines, making it more difficult for students to go to school, he said.

Borrowers may be required to pay higher interest rates instead of the present 9 percent on federal loans, Cullan said. The origination fee on federal loans, the fee for borrowing money, may be raised from 5 percent to 10 percent of the loan's value.

"This bill is to insure that students attending programs have reasonable access to educational institutions in Nebraska," Cullan said.

The loan authority would not necessarily replace present federal programs, said Guy Saunders of the Nebraska

Higher Education Loan Program. The authority would be used only if federal programs are drastically cut.

Saunders predicted that the loan authority would not be used soon, but he said it would exist if there was a need.

NEBHELP and the Higher Education Assistance Foundation now administer federal loan programs. With the original provisions of LB946, these programs' powers would have been curtailed.

The first LB946, patterned after an Illinois law, would have created a scholarship commission to give state scholarships. The administering authority of some federal loans and grants would have been transferred to the commission.

Although schools would be required to pledge some assets to guarantee that the loans be repaid, Cullan said this would pose little problem because Nebraskans have a low default rate.

Cullan said tuition rates for graduate students should be higher. The bill would allow those students to attend schools at greater cost and give them the chance to finance more of their education.

Cullan said it might be wise to amend the bill to allow graduate students to receive loans for out-of-state programs that are unavailable in Nebraska. But he warned that the amendment should not allow students to be given loans to attend out-of-state programs that also exist in the state.

Loans would be limited to cover the cost of education, Cullan said, so that students wouldn't be "digging themselves into a grave" trying to repay them.

Legislature may approve NU budget increase

By Melinda Norris

A tentative 1982-83 budget for the University of Nebraska, expected to be approved by the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee, gives the university a 6.1 percent increase in appropriations from last year.

The tentative budget gives the university an additional .2 percent more than Gov. Charles Thone's recommended budget, but is \$19.3 million short of the request made by the university administration.

Sources close to the Appropriations Committee said the increase is all the committee can give the university without raising the tax rate.

This 6 percent increase comes after the 3 percent cut by the special session of the Legislature last November.

The 6 percent increase was "not unexpected," said Jim Raglin, director of public affairs for the central administration.

"It's funny they're going to approve the budget before we make our proposal," he said.

The public hearing for the university budget is Friday in the Capitol at 1:30 p.m.

Raglin said that by concluding the budget appropriation, the committee is not leaving open options for the administration to expand on the governor's and university's proposed budgets.

"We (the university) still have one more chance, and we hope to see if we can persuade them," Raglin said.

The breakdown of the proposed percentage appropriation increase from fiscal year

1981-82 is: UNL City Campus, 5.5 percent; Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 6.2 percent; UNO, 4.3 percent; and UNMC, 6.9 percent.

The proposal also recommends a 19.3 percent increase for aid to veterinary students and a 13.7 percent increase for optometry students studying out-of-state.

The NU Central Administration would receive a 14.3 percent increase, of which \$300,000 is deposited in a discretionary salary fund, leaving the administration with a 2.1 percent increase.