

Hoppner addresses effective state representation

By TODD ANDERSON
Assignment Reporter

Effective government relies on lawmakers' ability to set the budget, a gubernatorial hopeful told University of Nebraska-Lincoln Young Democrats at their meeting Wednesday.

Bill Hoppner, candidate for the Democratic nomination for gover-

Election '98

nor, criticized Republicans supporting business leaders who said the Legislature was ineffective.

"Are we going to discuss and debate in the Legislature with 49 representatives from across the state ... or in a closed room with 49 business people?" Hoppner said, referring to

the 49-member Business Summit.

The group of Nebraska business leaders criticized the Legislature for not curbing spending. It also proposed a constitutional amendment to cap yearly budgets.

Hoppner criticized Republican gubernatorial candidates for supporting business leaders, saying the summit does not reflect Nebraska's interests.

"We need to be able to see from

the perspective of 1.7 million people in this state," he said. "And I think that's at risk."

Capping the budget would "take the Legislature out of the ball game of providing property tax relief," since increased state spending is used to pick up the slack, Hoppner said.

Tax relief is only one side of the issue, he said.

"I come from a business background, so responsible spending is

important," Hoppner said. "But that's not the end of the discussion."

"Is the government effective?"

Hoppner also spoke about retraining low-skilled workers as well as preparing students for sectors of the labor market facing a labor shortage.

"This is the most fundamental current problem," he said, "if we're going to continue the economic growth achieved in the last decade."

ASUN

Concern over paper waste opens debate

By JESSICA FARGEN
Assignment Reporter

For the second week in a row, UNL students spoke into the microphone in front of ASUN senators.

Two necessities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln - paper and computers - had students speaking their minds, as they did March 11 when students gathered to show support for keeping Bill McLaughlin, an adjunct chemistry instructor, at UNL.

Students who grabbed flyers from Association of Students of the University of Nebraska candidates last week may not have been thinking about the trees killed to make them, one testifier said.

Graham Johnson, a member of the environmental issues subcommittee, said he was concerned about the waste of paper in the election.

Johnson, a UNL graduate student, congratulated ASUN on a successful campaign, but said the way they conducted it was "strangely hypocritical."

"To create an (environmental issues) committee but then to go and produce numerous amounts of copy - that really didn't say too much about those running," he said.

Graham suggested prohibiting candidates from passing around 8.5-by-11-inch flyers. Instead, he suggested candidates "spend time drawing colorful, beautiful banners" that could be displayed in the Nebraska Union and other buildings.

Graham said using banners instead of flyers would increase voter turnout because students "would not just see letters on paper."

ASUN also heard comments about computer labs.

Saad Alavi, Union Board president, asked senators for informal support to add several computer programs to the 24-hour computer labs because the Coe Lab at the College of Business Administration was too crowded and not open late enough.

But Paul Schreier, chairman of the Technology Fees Advisory Board, said if ASUN showed support for the university providing departmental software for CBA, other colleges could follow suit.

"If we say 'OK you can have this' then any other department would have the right, too," Schreier said.

Alavi said three software programs he wants installed in union computers also could be used by computer science and computer engineering students, so it would benefit several groups of students.

Although the issue was not up for a vote, Schreier said Information Services wants to know how students want money from their technology fees spent.

In other ASUN business:

Sigma Lambda Beta, a Latino fraternity, was approved as a student organization.



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