

# Voters want candidates to address real issues in race

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scope of the statewide political debate, but few relevant issues had been brought out so far in this year's campaign.

Amanda Baeder, a sophomore biology major, said she is close to making a decision based on who has the most liberal stance relative to the other candidates.

She said some candidates made same sex marriage one of this year's big issues, even though the issue does not stand out as one of the most important.

"That was a total turnoff for me," she said.

Kim also said campaign-year rhetoric clouds the candidates' stances on important issues like

taxes and spending and might discourage people from voting.

"Every candidate is making promises, saying they're going to cut taxes," he said. "What no one looks at is how to raise enough revenue to run an efficient government."

Jeff Bowdino, a senior advertising major, said students are keen in spotting negative campaign advertising, which also can discourage people from voting.

He said candidates often highlight issues seemingly unimportant to Nebraskans to detract attention from the real issues.

Bowdino said his party affiliation will not be the deciding factor when he votes for governor in November.

Kim and Baeder said they like to wait until late in the campaign so they can make informed decisions.

As an advertising major, Bowdino said he pays more attention to the campaign tactics used in political advertising.

While voter apathy is a problem in Nebraska, Bowdino said he trusts in the system and voters' ability to choose the best candidate.

"I think the people of Nebraska are pretty well-educated and they know what they like," he said.

To attract more people to the polls, Bowdino said, young people should understand that their vote has an impact and is important.

"Without their vote, (people) have no say and no ability to change."

# Commitment of dean questioned

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"We are kind of crippled, and if we need to cut a program we are a prime target," Besett said.

Mark Majors, a third-year doctoral student, said it was the dean's choice to do what he wanted with the program, but it needed to be done with the "human factor" in mind.

"If the dean wishes to merge programs with school psychology, or rebuild counseling psychology, it is important that it be done directly so that goals and futures of people in program have security," he said.

Majors said the search committee was not what he hoped it would be.

"I would have thought there would have been an aggressive campaign to hire two new full-time professors," he said. "That did not happen, I do not believe."

Lisa Larson, an associate professor of educational psychology who is leaving the program in June, said something needs to be done.

"I feel like I'm trying," Larson said. "My sense is that the administration needs to make a decision about replacing people or put in a plan to disassemble the program."

O'Hanlon has started meeting with students weekly, and keeping them informed through e-mail on the progress of the search.

David Webster, first-year doctoral student, said the dean was trying to improve the program. Webster said money was being squeezed from the college, which went beyond the dean's authority.

"The significant thing is the dean is doing his part to hire faculty, so that looks like it will be an appropriate message sent to the (American Psychology Association)."

He said O'Hanlon cared about the program, but it may just be in a transition period.

O'Hanlon said the lack of permanent faculty members has left students with few advisers, which is the biggest problem. Besett said she has had three advisers and her dissertation committee has changed this year.

Webster said he was not concerned with the transition of faculty members when he was admitted, because he was told the program was "proactively dealing with vacancies."

Webster said he was drawn to the program because of the "collegial atmosphere" between students and professors, its focus on cultural diversity, highly regarded faculty and accreditation.

And several students said those very things that attracted students were being lost. In an e-mail sent to the Daily Nebraskan on April 3, Lisa Frey Richardson, Besett, Kimo Alameda and Amy Tiangson Corey, all third-year doctoral candidates, pointed to several ironies in O'Hanlon's practices.

The students said the dean "appears to be forcing the only two faculty members within the counseling psychology program to resign. Both of these faculty members are senior faculty women, and one is a minority woman. Disturbingly, the dean is sending a mixed message."

The students said, "perhaps the real issue is an underlying agenda that the dean is unwilling to reveal."

"By forcing out these two faculty members, the program is at great risk. Perhaps this is the dean's underlying agenda."

But O'Hanlon said he has no intention to force the remaining faculty members out. Professors may be leaving for better salaries or more prestigious career opportunities, he said.

Besett said she felt like O'Hanlon wanted students to write grants and proposals in order to gain more resources

for the program. She said it is the job of professors, which are lacking right now.

"The way the dean makes it sound is that we have to fight for our program," Besett said. "Students have no control in actuality of keeping or not keeping a program."

O'Hanlon said that process requires a commitment from both parties.

"It is the job of professors, but students enter in," O'Hanlon said.

With three fewer professors, students don't have a lot of options, Besett said. Several feel like little is being done by the college to retain and recruit current professors.

Larson is leaving in June for Iowa State University.

"For me it certainly is a good position (in Iowa)," she said. "I felt like the support of the program was in question."

Moshman said he also recognizes a lack of support for the remaining counseling psychology professors.

"The remaining two faculty were both excellent faculty, who have not been personally supported to the degree they should be," Moshman said.

The remaining professor in the program said she is doing everything she could to fit the mission of the college, which is an emphasis on kindergarten through 12th graders.

Gargi Roysircar Sodowsky, associate professor, said she has sponsored several school programs at Color Middle School, an ethnically diverse school.

She requires 14 students each semester to provide education services for an English as a second language class. It was the first program in the nation to offer practicums in a school instead of at the college.

Majors said, "To say you want to focus on schools, children and families, I could not think you could focus more."

O'Hanlon said he was pleased with Sodowsky and Larson's work in the schools, which fit well with the col-

**“The significant thing is the dean is doing his part to hire faculty, so that looks like it will be an appropriate message sent to the (APA).”**

DAVID WEBSTER  
first-year doctoral student

lege's mission.

For whatever reason tenured professors are leaving, with their absence comes the slim possibility of revocation of accreditation from the APA.

Accreditation is based on things such as the number of tenured or long-term faculty members, quality and curriculum. Every five years APA representatives visit accredited programs and decide whether to maintain their accreditation. Programs must submit an annual report to the APA. Counseling psychology is accredited until 2000 and has been since 1959.

O'Hanlon said he was committed to maintaining accreditation, although revocation was unlikely.

"Our very minimal goal is every student graduate here with APA accreditation," O'Hanlon said.

When APA representatives came two years ago, they gave an excellent report, he said. If they came today, he said they probably would tell him to hire more faculty members.

Besett said the program she came to two years ago was becoming a program that was hard to recognize.

"I came into this institution and the institution has made a commitment," Besett said. "We came as a separate program and want to go out as a separate program."

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