

# Minority groups stand behind NUForce candidates, Clements

BY KIMBERLY SWEET

Representatives from various student organizations lined up to give their endorsement to the NUForce party Thursday, saying presidential candidate Angela Clements and her running mates would do the most to advance diversity on campus.

Clements and members of her party held an "endorsement announcement" in the Nebraska Union, bringing together leaders from such groups as the Afrikan People's Union, the Muslim Student Association and the International Student Organization to rally support for NUForce.

Ahmad Ismail, the president of the Muslim Student Association, said he will vote in a student government election for the first time this year, even though this is his third year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Because Association of Students of the University of Nebraska candidates have traditionally overlooked international students' needs during the election campaign, Ismail said he wasn't motivated to vote.

But this year's different, he said.

"I personally lend my support and will influence members of my organization to lend their support. (NUForce) is the first party to represent international students," Ismail said.

Rachael Robinson-Keilig, vice president of the Women's Studies Association, said other parties may trump diversity, but NUForce is the only one that can achieve it.

"It's one thing to say you want to represent all students," she said. "(NUForce) wants to restructure senate to make it more diversified and make more groups represented."

Other students spoke out on Clements' and the party's willingness to speak up against discriminatory public policy.

Some parties have said it is not ASUN's place to lobby the Legislature on public policy issues not all students may be in agreement on. But Daniel Justice, a doctoral student in English, said Clements' willingness to speak out for the minority is proof that she cares about students.

"What issues that affect minority student groups don't affect the majority?" asked Justice,

*"What issues that affect minority student groups don't affect the majority?"*

**Daniel Justice**  
UNL English doctoral student

who is a member of the Cherokee nation in Oklahoma. "Are our issues not worthy?"

Justice said he would support NUForce.

"Not simply because they will fight for my issues, but because they will fight for your issues too," he said.

Leaders of the Afrikan People's Union, the Latin American Student Association, the International House and the International Student Organization all gave speeches urging voters to check Clements and NUForce on the ballot on Feb. 28.

Nelson Okuku Miruka, a doctoral student from Kenya, gave the most rousing endorsement of

Clements, yelling across union square.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I want to make UNL a university where our student senate is representative," he said.

"Give Angela time!"



Sharon Kolbet/DH

ASUN Presidential Candidate Angela Clements of the NUForce party answers questions at Thursday's debate. The forum, which was the second of the three scheduled debates, was held in the Nebraska East Union.

## Candidates answer pressing questions

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Luttich all said they felt the issue was something ASUN should speak out on.

"If it limits the education we can receive, then it is something we should fight against," Matzen said of the faculty lost by the lack of benefits offered to same-sex partners.

Clements said the issue was one she felt very strongly about. "We have lost good faculty members in the past due to the lack of domestic partner benefits," she said.

Turning the questions to the second vice-presidential candidates, debate moderator Kimberly Sweet, Daily Nebraskan associate news editor, asked the two candidates how they would foster communication if they were elected.

No Bull second vice-presidential candidate Alisa Hardy said that attending all meetings would be a priority for her. She also wanted to see more work being done with the Advisory Board Presidents Council, Service Council and the Residence Hall Association.

Because the second vice-presidential candidate runs independent to the presidential and first vice-presidential ticket, the second vice-presidential candidates were asked what they would do if they were elected but their running mates weren't.

Nick Fitch of the Score! party said his party was trying to stay positive with all the candidates, and if he were elected, he would try to incorporate the important points of each platform into his priorities.

In turning the attention back to the presidential candidates, the five students were asked to state their opinion on possible tuition increases.

Fuerst said he supported the idea of a grandfather clause.

"Students need to know they will pay the same amount all the way through," he said.

Luttich disagreed, and said if a grandfather clause went into effect, subsequent incoming students would be required to pay even more to make up for any budget shortfall.

The five presidential candidates were also divided on the issue of putting less emphasis on agricultural programs at UNL.

But when it came to the issue of giving the ASUN president a vote on the board of regents, the candidates were in agreement.

Luttich said the possibility of the ASUN president having a vote would be too tempting to special interest groups.

Matzen said if special interest money were involved, a financially strapped student could be corrupted.

The third and final debate will be a roundtable discussion scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 22 in the Nebraska Union.

The roundtable begins at noon and will be broadcast live on 90.3 KRNU.

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