

ASUO president: Bassett would serve best

University students, or at least that miniscule portion of them who will cast ballots in Wednesday's ASUO elections, face a line-up of presidential candidates that could appeal to a wide range of voters.

While the traditional indifference of students selecting their nominal leaders and those leaders' chronically uneven record in recent years leave us skeptical about the importance of recommending candidates, the Emerald does believe one of this year's four candidates — Scott Bassett — represents a distinctly superior choice.

In two years on the Incidental Fee Committee — the guts of the ASUO budgeting process — Bassett has demonstrated administrative competence and effectiveness in attaining his policy goals, qualities deriving in large part from his remarkable skills of organization. Bassett also reveals a thorough

working knowledge of the bureaucratic dynamic of the University, the ebb and flow of its decision-making channels.

His successes include seeing that control over dormitory-deposit-interest revenue was placed in the

ours

hands of living-unit representatives rather than University administrators. Bassett also headed a petition drive that resulted in the installation of telephones in campus residential halls.

While we don't agree with some of his positions on specific issues — routine IFC financial support for academic student unions, to name one — Bassett seems to operate out of a consistent, programmatic framework that would serve students well.

Of the other three candidates, two — Amy Tobias and Tom Christ — have had experience on the EMU Board, a much less rigorous background for the top ASUO post.

Christ seems able to exercise an intelligent critique of ASUO operations, but his observations tend to fall into a simplistically negative category without substantive alternatives to the problems he describes. His uncertain grasp of organizational and administrative detail and spottier leadership experience make his candidacy much less attractive to us.

Amy Tobias' self-description as "high on energy but low on ideas" strikes to the heart of her candidacy's failings. While undoubtedly a sincere and eager seeker of the president's post, her scattered, "ad hoc" approach to ASUO issues bodes ill for an effective term as the chief executive. Both Tobias and

Christ would have to spend valuable time just getting attuned to the demands of the office, if either of them were elected president.

The final candidate — or anti-candidate — is Mike Lee, a journalism student. A champion of the disaffected, Lee in many ways represents the true, apolitical mood of the student constituency. But he will have to mobilize a part of that inert 93 percent of students who don't usually vote in order to win — an unlikely task.

While his graphic, although not necessarily relevant, slogan of "Kick ass — don't kiss it!" has a nice, populist ring to it, we doubt that government by gadfly would suffice during this retrograde, political phase of the Seventies.

If University students need and want ASUO leadership, that would best be provided by Scott Bassett as president.

theirs

Some good, some bad

Referendum 1: Fall elections

Fall elections have been used to fill positions vacated during the summer and to give the Incidental Fee Committee a belated send-off on its yearlong task of distributing student money among scores of legitimate recipients.

Switching the IFC election to spring term would give its members a chance to get to know the programs they will be evaluating, save \$5,000 in election costs and possibly increase the election's psychological importance by offering more candidates in a single contest.

A few candidates warn that this would eliminate the freshman vote.

We note their vote is already hampered by apathy and ignorance, two conditions the ASUO would have the opportunity to overcome by spring, when freshman would cast ballots with the rest of students.

By that time a few of them may even be interested enough to run for office themselves.

Referendum 2: Class officers

We were pleased to see students vote them out the last time the issue was put to them, haven't missed them in the intervening year and a half and aren't anxious to have them invited back into the student government fold.

Herrera has endorsed reincarnation of class officers to bolster the ASUO team roster and to serve as official delegates to University functions, especially social ones.

Although having student bodies on hand at University social events may remind alumni, administrators and professors that students are a part of the University, we see no reason for those students to carry the traditional baggage of selection by year in school.

In the past, class officers have existed for two reasons: to promote such class events as proms, homecoming, canoe fetes and parents weekend, and to offer their smiling faces as part of the social regalia the University occasionally drags out to convince alumni, legislators and the community that the University is static, that all is well.

But most traditional class activities have died for lack of interest, as has any distinction among classes, a trend we would like to see recognized rather than negated.

When student participation at University functions might be worthwhile, we hope the ASUO will find participants among its existing ranks



and suggest it begin relying more heavily on the SUAB, which could benefit by making a few more links to the University hierarchy.

Referendum 3: Incidental Fee Committee

ASUO presidential appointment of two out of seven Incidental Fee Committee members invites more problems than it tries to solve.

ASUO Pres. Ramon Herrera's concern about the potential control of the IFC by a specific group is legitimate, considering the usual low voter turnout but his amendment increases rather than decreases this potential.

The president needs only three sympathetic votes on the IFC to uphold presidential vetoes. With two of those votes appointed, he or she would need only one more. This would increase the president's power dramatically and unfairly.

Self-interest groups interested in controlling IFC should be rooting for the passage of this amendment. Currently power happy groups need to secure four IFC positions for a majority and five to override a presidential veto. If the measure passes, control of the committee is theirs with only the president and

presumably the president's appointees and one elected IFC member.

Referendum 4: Spring elections.

This amendment would clear up some vague and silly wording in the ASUO constitution by establishing May 25 as the transition date for the presidency and changing election period from "the first half of May" to spring elections. No problem.

YOURS

Rainbow dissent (II)

Sat Nam. Greetings and Love. May Great Spirit free our land from her possessive bonds of unfreedom.

To set the record aright; among other roles, I am a medicine man of the Rainbow Nation. This tribal affiliation is not defined by any opinion held by Marcia Medler; (ODE letters, April 16) indeed, she does not sit in our Council, the decision-making body of our people, nor is she considered or does she consider

herself a member of our family.

The Rainbow National Disarmament Council does not recognize this individual as a spokesperson and her relationship with us bears no relation whatever to any kind of factual correspondence, even flimsily construed.

The Crow Owners Society was created by me. Jim Weaver is not authorized to approve Ms. Medler's affiliation with this organization, although he did write us a very nice commendation; however, I am sure Congressman Weaver would be upset by this outrage, and I wish to publicly apologize to him for any inconvenience he may have felt.

Since I do not control or even associate with Ms. Medler, I cannot regulate what she may say about me or any of my activities. I can only hope she and her outrageously forked tongue soon find other interests than my own to confuse.

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