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## UNIVERSITY

### Candidate stresses participation

By Carrie Dennett  
Emerald Reporter

Daniel Atchison, candidate for a one-year Incidental Fee Committee seat, said he wants to work with student groups to help ease the effects of budget cuts.

Atchison, a senior political science major, said he thinks the IFC should work with all student groups to make the right decisions for each particular group.

Cutting a straight percentage from each group across the board is not the best solution to budget restraints, he said, because the effects on smaller groups would be too detrimental.

One possible solution would be to encourage groups to make up for budget losses by doing more of their own fundraising.

"Since we're having to cut budgets, I think student groups need to take more responsibility for raising their own funds," he said.

Atchison said student fees have increased rapidly over the past few years, and more fee in-

creases would be unfair to students.

"Students aren't going to pay for everything themselves," he said.

Atchison was a political science peer adviser this year until he was called up for the Naval Reserves. Although he was not sent to the Persian Gulf, he did spend time in the reserves working with funding paperwork.

Last year, he was an intern for state Sen. Peter Brockman, R-Sisters, and assisted with funding measures through the Ways and Means committee.

While Atchison does not have a lot of experience with campus groups, he said that fact may help his impartiality.

"Any IFC member should be impartial and fair," he said. "You have to decide if a student group is doing what's best for the campus and students. You can't vote according to your personal beliefs."

"I don't have a lot of that political baggage with me."

Atchison also wants to improve student involvement with the IFC process.

"I want to make students



Daniel Atchison

more aware of what's going on," he said. "There's too much apathy — just look at how many students don't vote."

Ideas he has for getting students involved include relying on flyers as well as the *Emerald's* et als for informing students about IFC meetings, and making time for more student testimony.

"Student involvement doesn't end with elections," he said.

### Students don't show for forum

By Tammy Batey  
Emerald Reporter

Students gave the cold shoulder to the University's Task Force on Undergraduate Education Wednesday.

Only a handful of students showed up at a forum spon-

sored by the task force to hear undergraduates' academic concerns.

"My biggest disappointment is, where the devil are the undergraduates?" asked Frank Anderson, task force chairman.

Those who attended the forum discussed six preliminary

plans proposed by the task force.

The first proposal is to form an educational policy committee, which would monitor and direct the undergraduate program.

Undergraduate recruitment and admissions also were discussed at the forum. Points under this proposal include recruiting students to gain a diverse student body and not publishing admission criteria.

Martha Pitts, associate director of admissions, said her biggest concern with the proposal was the elimination of all standardized forms of measuring academic achievement.

"The only thing we have that is standardized is the SAT," Pitts said. "If the students gets a 3.0 (grade point average), at some schools, it places them in the top half of the class, and at other schools it puts them at the lower half of class."

In addition, the task force proposed to expand the responsibility of faculty advising.

"This is a noble expectation, but (faculty) are best off to do advising in their own area," said Don Van Houten, arts and sciences dean. "The faculty don't know the rules, so what you get is incompetent advisers."

Anderson said advising should be part of a faculty member's job, although "clearly some (faculty) are more competent than others."

The task force also proposed to monitor the academic progress of undergraduates. This could be done by setting deadlines by which certain University requirements must be met.

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### MEANS OF ASCENT THE YEARS OF LYNDON JOHNSON

BY ROBERT A. CARO

Robert A. Caro's life of Lyndon Johnson, which began with the greatly acclaimed *The Path to Power*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, continues one of the richest, most intensive and most revealing examinations ever undertaken of an American President. In *Means of Ascent* the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer/historian, chronicler also of Robert Moses in *The Power Broker*, carries Johnson through his service in World War II and the foundation of his long-concealed fortune and the facts behind the myths he created about it. But the explosive heart of the book is Caro's revelation of the true story of the fiercely contested 1948 senatorial election, for forty years shrouded in rumor, which Johnson had to win or face certain political death, and which he did win-by "the 87 votes that changed history." Caro makes us witness to a momentous turning point in American politics: the tragic last stand of the old politics versus the new—the politics of issue versus the politics of image, mass manipulation, money and electronic dazzle.



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