



ASUO EXECUTIVE RACE

Bobby Lee Karmen Fore

By Mandy Baucum
Emerald Reporter

Editor's note: Profiles of all the candidates for the ASUO Executive will run through Tuesday.

Bobby Lee and Karmen Fore believe they have the right combination of ASUO experience and inexperience to make them the ideal choice for president and vice president.

Lee believes his three years in the ASUO, including two as affirmative action coordinator, qualify him for the position. Fore believes her lack of ASUO experience will allow her to come in with a new perspective.

"By not being involved in the ASUO, I can bring in fresh and unique ideas," said Fore, who has spent four years working on the Student University Relations Council.

Continual lobbying on the state and federal level is a top priority. Lee and Fore said they believe this is the only way to combat Measure 5's impact on the University. They realize statewide cuts are being gradually inflicted on the University.

By getting students to lobby for a special legislative session, Lee and Fore hope students can join the push for tax reform.

Part of this session would be to get the legislature to receive direct input from students and hear a proposal formulated by ASUO, with the help of students.

"We need to be consistent at the state level," Lee said. "You just can't stop no matter how bad the future looks. By applying pressure to the Legislature we tell them how devastating Measure 5 is to us."

On safety issues, Lee and Fore said they are excited about their Peace Keeper program. The Office of Public Safety would take an active role by training



Karmen Fore and Bobby Lee

student volunteers to patrol the campus.

The program will help to create a safer campus, the pair say, because there will be more people patrolling the streets and identifying crime "hot spots."

Lee said he was outraged by OPS's lack of efficiency after a rape winter term in the residence halls.

Many students did not feel comfortable speaking to OPS and city police officers about the incident, he said. Lee personally spoke with students who felt unsafe in their living arrangements.

"The ASUO needs to take the initiative to go out to the site, talk to the victims, talk to the police officers, facilitate the worries and the problems that exist at the time," he said. "That's something I've been doing."

They also have plans for restructuring the ASUO if elected. Some of the new positions they would create in the ASUO are: state affairs officer to handle University lobbying interests, a greek liaison to coordinate activities between the ASUO, the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic, a safety affairs coordinator and an environmental affairs officer.

They said the (new positions) will not create any new expenses, because they will only be combining old and new responsibilities into one efficient position.

Lee and Fore also want to introduce younger students to the ASUO by maintaining one intern for each staff position. Interns will earn upper division credit through the ESCAPE program.

Don King Holly Ferguson

By Maja Wolff
Emerald Contributor

Don King and Holly Ferguson believe the most important thing they could do if elected ASUO executives is to represent all students.

"This should be a government of, by and for the students," Ferguson said.

One way they hope to represent every student is by not bringing any ideological agendas into the ASUO. They are not for one cause or idea only, King said, but for every student, which is something they believe the ASUO hasn't been in the past.

"Accessibility to the student government is important to us," Ferguson said. Their plans to increase accessibility include the creation of office hours outside of the office where students can discuss anything that's on their minds.

As for recent rumors circulating that King and Ferguson promised to hire all greeks to their executive council, that's asinine, King said.

"We are strongly pro-greek. We believe in the greek system. We are strongly pro-student. We believe in students who aren't greeks," he said.

They do feel that greeks are underrepresented in the ASUO. But King said they plan to solicit applications from "every corner of the student body."

Cultural diversity is another aspect of the University that King and Ferguson plan to work on. They hope to strengthen the Programs Council, which is a meeting of every IFC-recognized group. King and Ferguson would make this meeting mandatory in an effort to get the groups together and talking.

"That's how you increase diversity," King said. "You don't do it by setting up an office and tucking that office away in a corner. You've got to get that group out into the public and meeting other people from different backgrounds."

As for campus safety, King and Ferguson plan to work with the Office of Public Safety on a lighting project as well as



Don King and Holly Ferguson

on the creation of "safety corridors," areas on campus where night classes would be concentrated.

"No politician can stand before the students and say, 'We're going to solve all the safety problems,'" King said. "What Holly and I want to do is emphasize to the students that safety is about personal awareness and it's about education and it's about knowing ... how to keep yourself safe more than relying on the politicians who they elect to keep them safe."

King and Ferguson would also like to incorporate some non-partisan ideas into their term of office such as "putting the dead back in Dead Week" by eliminating classes Thursday and Friday of Dead Week. King said this is possible because when the University switched to phone registration, the three days normally reserved for arena registration were added to the term. He said the administration is responsive to the idea.

Another important issue to the King/Ferguson campaign is combatting Measure 5. They plan to accomplish this by getting both students and parents involved with lobbying Salem on a much larger scale than in the past.

King also hopes to work more closely with the administration in the battle against Measure 5.

"The University administration is just chock full of expertise and ideas and means to combat Measure 5, and we need to work together toward lowering tuition," he said.

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