

Spectrum renews resolution against Chick-fil-A

Katherine Blunt
News Editor

Spectrum, Elon University's queer-straight alliance, has renewed its resolution against the presence of Chick-fil-A's on campus. The Student Government Association will vote on the legislation Oct. 11.

The resolution was suspended briefly while Spectrum investigated Chick-fil-A's announcement that its "intent is not to support political or social agendas," but it appears the

franchise will still donate to anti-gay organizations, said senior Lauren Clapp, an advocacy and education chair for Spectrum. The resolution must again sit on the desk of Connor O'Donnell, SGA executive vice president, for two weeks before it can be put to a vote.

The resolution, first proposed Sept. 18, has been met with mixed reactions on campus. Although the first open discussion about Elon's relationship with Chick-fil-A yielded considerable support for Spectrum's

position, some students remain unconvinced.

"I don't agree with supporting anti-gay organizations, but I just don't think we should take Chick-fil-A off campus," said sophomore Andrew Loughran. "It's a personal choice. If you don't support Chick-fil-A, you don't have to eat there, but taking it away from everyone is kind of unfair."

Sophomore Dylan Fitchett said he thinks removing Chick-fil-A would be unfair to the franchise as well.

"As a business, I don't support it," he said. "But as a business, it has a right to be here on campus."

Some students are more receptive of Spectrum's argument, though. Junior Alex Papp said he understands Spectrum's concern, but predicted widespread discontent among students if the resolution is passed.

"I think a lot of students would be angry, because not many are up-to-date on their fast food politics," he said. "I think it would ultimately make

a difference, though. It would set a precedent regarding Elon's business partnerships."

Although many students have expressed opinions on the Chick-fil-A debate, misconceptions about the resolution continue to circulate, said senior Emily Kane, also an advocacy and education chair for Spectrum.

"We want students to understand where we're coming from," she said. "We're trying to clarify our stance on it. This is not a free speech issue. Chick-

fil-A goes against our discrimination policy on campus."

SGA Executive Secretary Leah Burns said the SGA Executive Board has encouraged senate members to educate themselves on the controversy before the Oct. 11 vote.

"We prepared for the resolution once," O'Donnell said. "We will prepare for it again."

SGA Forum to discuss Chick-fil-A on campus
Where: McKinnon Hall
When: 7:30 p.m. Oct. 11

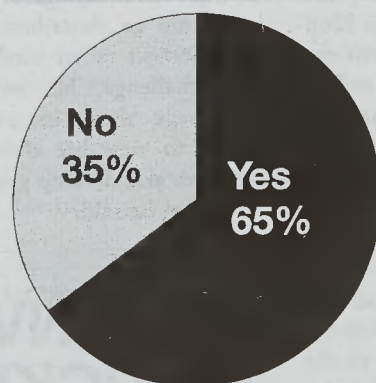
RESULTS: CHICK-FIL-A AT ELON SURVEY

Results based on 421 responses to The Pendulum's online survey collected from Sept. 26 - Sept. 30.

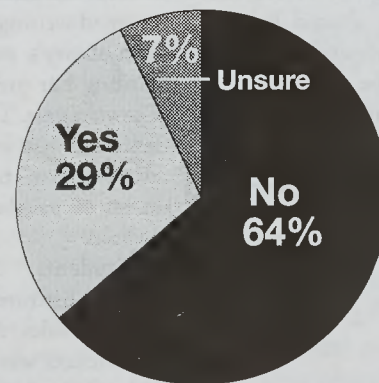
Current affiliation with
Elon University:

- 67% student
- 19% alum
- 7% faculty/staff
- 7% community member

Do you personally choose
to eat at Chick-fil-A?



Do you support the removal
of Chick-fil-A from campus?



What people are saying:
(Quotes pulled from online responses)

- “Gay rights advocates don't have the right to force others to agree with them, and silencing the competition is a contradiction to everything they stand for.”
- “If the university endorses Chick-fil-A, it alienates itself from a large group of its student body (gay students) and makes them feel uncomfortable.”
- “It's chicken. Get over it.”

University debate topics reveal issues significant to Elon students

Rachel Southmayd
Senior Reporter

With Election Day approaching, the Elon University's campus is getting into the swing of debate season, most notably with a student debate scheduled for Oct. 25. Prior to the debate, students indicated the topics most important to them during this campaign season.

Of the 600 students who voted, the majority ranked the economy, health care and same-sex marriage as the three most important topics to address at the debate.

The debate committee and Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for Student Life, reached out to the Elon community to select the three topics of the student debate. Voting for the topics occurred during College

Coffee on Sept. 18 and online.

Senior Jess-Mara Jordan did not vote, but said student loans would be her biggest topic of interest.

"I feel like all the other stuff that's on the bigger platforms don't really apply to us," she said, referring to health care and the economy, two major issues on which both Republican Mitt Romney and Democrat Barack Obama are basing their campaigns.

Patterson said loans were the fourth most popular topic. She explained that students are probably concerned about health care and the economy because they're such hot topics in the actual Democratic and Republican Party platforms. She attributed the popularity of the same sex marriage topic to the current controversy surrounding Chick-fil-A's presence on campus.

Despite the popular support for

discussions concerning the issue, senior Avery McGaha said same-sex marriage is not something people should really argue about, because he believes it should not be restricted by the government.

"For me, at least, there should be no debate," he said.

McGaha participated in the voting. He said the topic that concerns him the most is the environment, but that it does not make for an engaging debate topic.

Earlier last week, an email was sent out to the student body searching for applicants to participate in the four-person debate teams.

"We want everyone to participate," Patterson said.

She said the ideal makeup of the teams will be two students, one faculty member and one staff member. Addi-

tionally, political organizations and action groups will be permitted to have tables to engage students who attend the debates, which will also be televised by Elon Local News, air on WSOE and covered live by The Pendulum.

Patterson said political engagement on Elon's campus is high relative to that of other schools and that she hopes the debate includes civil discourse about the three student-selected topics, which, she said, are clearly of importance to the campus community.

"The goal is to really get the university engaged," Patterson said.

The last time the school held a debate of this magnitude was in 2004.

During the campaign season
What: Elon student debate
Where: Whitley Auditorium
When: 6:30 p.m. Oct. 25

TOP ISSUES for North Carolinians

(acc. to Elon Poll Results)

- Economy
- Health care
- Federal budget deficit

TOP ISSUES for Elon Students

(acc. to College Coffee
voting and online poll)

- Economy
- Health care
- Same-sex marriage