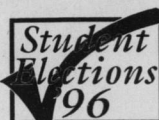


Student Body President Candidate Profiles



Student voters will elect one of these four aspiring office holders on Feb. 13.

■ Bring Government Back to Students

Despite two years of student government experience, student body president candidate Sean Behr said he didn't consider himself a "political person."

"I think students are tired of voting for politicians," Behr said Jan. 23.

Instead, the junior political science and history major from Staten Island, N.Y., sees himself as a candidate with whom the average student can identify. "One thing that can happen to the student body president is he can become more of a figurehead," Behr said. "I'm a student. If it's what students want, I'll go to bat for it."

As a sophomore, Behr was deputy secretary of executive projects under former Student Body President George Battle. Behr helped organize special executive branch projects such as student body meetings and Carolina Impressions, a liberal arts fair.

Behr also worked on Student Body President Calvin Cunningham's campaign and was later appointed executive assistant, one of the highest-level positions in Cunningham's administration. He also works with Habitat for Humanity and was a C-TOPS orientation leader last summer.

In watching student government's inner workings, Behr said he had realized he needed to take on a leadership role of his own. "If you think you can do something, then get out there and do it. Running for student body president is a chance to bring the issues that you feel are important to the forefront of discussion on campus."

Behr said that his administration would

"I'm a student. If it's what students want, I'll go to bat for it."

Sean Behr



focus on the student body's needs and that student government's purpose is often forgotten. "We're students. I won't have as much interaction with the state legislature. We need to do what students want. My thing is going to be people-centered, not money centered, not legislature-centered."

To achieve this, Behr said he would organize focus groups to find out what students wanted from student government and would urge student groups to cooperate. Behr said he would work to get more minorities involved in student government, an area in which Cunningham said he thought he had done a poor job in his State of the Student Body report. "I would definitely try to have a diverse student government administration," Behr said.

Behr said the issues addressed in this year's election wouldn't be very different from those addressed in years past, such as

the environment, information technology, campus safety and the academic climate. "Those aren't my big issues," Behr said. "I think we need to be more concerned with people and less concerned with things."

Behr said he was especially concerned about student government's image on campus but added that the problem wasn't just on the surface. "Student government doesn't need better PR on the job they do. They need to do a better job, and the PR will take care of itself," Behr said.

While Behr is the only out-of-state candidate, he said he thought that would have little effect on his candidacy. "I think I'm going to let the student body decide who's the best person for the job," Behr said. "If they decide that person has to be from North Carolina, that's fine. If they want the best person for the job, that'd be me."

PROFILE COMPILED BY JOHN SWEENEY

■ Student Body Needs Seasoned Leader

Lee Conner, a junior economics and political science major from Wilmington, said his vision, experience and work ethic would make him a successful student body president. "I've always been willing to put in the hard hours to get the job done right."

As student body co-secretary under former Student Body President George Battle, Conner said, he learned how to work with UNC administrators from Battle's example. "He built a credible, personal relationship with the other members of the Board of Trustees. They knew he had the support of the students," Conner said. "They may not listen to one person, but they will listen to 25,000."

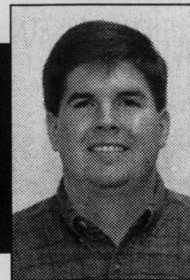
Conner said he has gained some of his own experience dealing with University administrators as former Chancellor Paul Hardin's Student Advisory Committee chairman. Constantly talking to students helps a leader to gain their support, Conner said. "You just have to go out there and talk to them. You show them that with their help, you really can make changes."

Uniting the campus on the safety issue will show administrators students have an advocate for their concerns, Conner said. "Everybody wants to feel safe when they walk around this campus," he said. "I can't imagine anyone standing up and saying, 'We don't want a safer campus.'"

Conner said he would also try to unite Student Congress by getting them to focus on students rather than politics. "You need to propose legislation that's on track," he

"You have to listen to their (students') ideas, because they could be great ones."

Lee Conner



said. "The agenda I set needs to be the agenda the student body wants. If they know I represent what the student body wants, that will be a hard voice to ignore."

Getting more students directly involved in student government and holding weekly office hours in the Pit would help unite the campus, Conner said. "For the people to want to be a part of something, they have to think it's worthwhile. Give the students a chance to show their opinion."

The youth basketball team coach said providing service to the community was very important to the University. "The executive branch of student government should be out there doing service," he said.

"One third of the mission of this university is service. The students should see us out there working in the community."

Part of student government's service mission would be to register voters during

C-TOPS and have all students vote on campus for government elections, he said. "People are afraid if they put a polling site on campus, they will hear our voice."

To influence the General Assembly to fund the University, the student body president must promote UNC's service to the community, Conner said. "We need to be proactive as students in showing the state as a whole and the General Assembly in particular what good things go on here," said Conner, adding that he would encourage legislators to visit campus. "We want (them) to see what campus is about. It's not about the things that are on the front page of The (Raleigh) News and Observer."

Listening to students' needs would be the key to his strengths as president, Conner said. "You have to listen to their ideas, because they could be great ones."

PROFILE COMPILED BY SHARIF DURHAMS

■ SBP Must Be Accessible, Accountable

Michael Farmer, a junior political science major from Durham, said he was running for student body president to give students a voice in government.

"I am running to provide the University and our students with an inlet to an accessible and accountable student government," he said. His campaign theme is "action, movement, a student use of government, not a government use of students."

As a member of Student Body President Calvin Cunningham's cabinet, Farmer said he was active in trying to use state funds to advertise performances at the Smith Center. Despite his student government involvement, Farmer said he was not political. "I am really a regular student who happens to be involved in many areas and different fields. We are probably the least political campaign going on now."

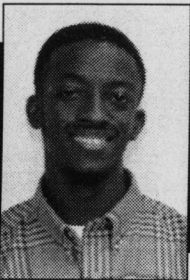
Farmer, Carolina Union Activities Board advertising director, said publicizing events involving student groups was one of student government's most important roles. "Student government doesn't really advertise what they're doing. If you have a student government that is based in people, you're gonna get the word out."

Establishing a student government web page and a newsletter were ideas Farmer said would help give students access to his administration.

Farmer said his administration would also try to form relationships with corporations, "seeing what resources are available

"Faith in student government is not the way it should be or could be."

Michael Farmer



to them."

As a freshman, Farmer was involved in student rallies to establish a free-standing Black Cultural Center. He said he wanted to provide the unity to make changes to the University on a similar scale. "Having the BCC is very important to show what students can do when they put their imagination and efforts into a project," he said. "It's also a monument to student power."

Farmer said his administration would include more minorities in his cabinet. He acknowledged the balanced representation of women in the current cabinet but said "there are very few racial minorities in the executive branch — very, very few."

Farmer's top priority would be to unite students in pushing UNC administrators to search for sources of funding other than tuition and fee increases. "You have to show them, first of all, what students are

wanting. In the long run, the fee is helping the University, and that's how they see it. Students right now are having problems dealing with the increase."

Better relations with Chapel Hill and Carboro and better publicity of University activities would improve state legislators' views of UNC, Farmer said, but it is communication between student government and students that is essential to empowering student leaders.

"Leadership is more than just being a head figure. It's being accountable for your actions and dealing with issues that are important to students," he said.

"Students have a problem with student government. Though there are a fair number of students in our government, faith in student government is not the way it should be or it could be."

PROFILE COMPILED BY SHARIF DURHAMS

■ President Should Heed Student Voice

Student body president candidate Aaron Nelson believes there is more to life at UNC than what most people can see.

"We're not just passing through here," Nelson said Jan. 24. "This is our home for at least four years."

With that in mind, Nelson, a junior philosophy major from Raleigh, said his administration would concentrate on ideas and people, and on becoming more accessible to the student body. "Student government needs to be more responsive to the needs of students. We need to be enhancing the quality of living and building a community here," Nelson said.

Nelson's list of credentials includes a term in Student Congress, a year as an executive assistant in the Resident Housing Association and involvement in a variety of campus organizations, including the Coalition for Economic Justice and a new consumer protection group for students.

Nelson is a member of Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity as well as a resident assistant in Mangum Residence Hall, a situation which he said has allowed him to see student life from both an on- and off-campus student's perspective.

"I think the fundamental responsibility of the student body president is to advocate students," Nelson said.

In an effort to learn more about students' opinions, Nelson has had his campaign staff going door-to-door for the past two weeks, surveying students on a variety of issues that affect them. John Dervin, a

"We are pro-student, and that goes across party lines."

Aaron Nelson



member of Nelson's staff, said Tuesday the number of students surveyed should be more than 2,000 when they finish.

Nelson said he hoped to be just as accessible to students if elected and said he would try to hold regular student body meetings to listen to students' concerns.

Nelson said he also wanted to organize a "university council" to encourage better communication between students, faculty and staff, healing a campus he said was "fractured" by the turmoil surrounding the recent \$400 tuition increase.

Nelson was one of the students who spoke in September to the Board of Trustees in opposition to the increase.

Nelson said that experience made him unique among student body president candidates. "I am the only one who has, when it came down to it, gone to bat for students," he said.

Despite his experience, Nelson was reluctant to classify himself as a political insider. "I have an outsider's perspective and an insider's knowledge of the system," Nelson said.

Nelson also said he thought his work with the Young Democrats would have little or no effect on his campaign. "There's no room for bipartisanship in student government," Nelson said. "We are pro-student, and that goes across party lines."

While he claimed he hadn't made any decisions regarding potential appointments to executive branch positions, he did say his appointees would be "people who are representative of students." "And it was the students with whom Nelson believed his success or failure was inextricably linked."

"I have the skills to get the job done, but the doing is a lot of people."

PROFILE COMPILED BY JOHN SWEENEY

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Student Elections Notes

Congress Candidates Announce Intent to Run

The following students are running for Student Congress. Thirty-six candidates are running for the 37 open seats in the 23 districts.

From Dist. 1 (graduate students in the School of Law and School of Business) Elizabeth Erhardt and Jamie Kilbourne. From Dist. 4 (graduate students in English, folklore, comparative literature, linguistics, Romance languages, Germanic languages, Slavic languages, speech communication, and leisure studies) Brian Kennedy. From Dist. 10 (Spencer, Alderman, Kenan, McIver and Aycock) Kristin Sasser. From Dist. 11 (Graham, Stacy and Cobb) Shelly Boa and Melissa Helms. From Dist. 12 (Lewis, Everett, Joyner, Alexander and Connor) Paul Brezina, Joe Kleidis and Arun Krishnarg. From Dist. 13 (Grimes, Manley, Mangum, Ruffin, Old East, Old West and Whitehead) Stacy Hermelin and Winston McMillan, Mark Sweet and Ryan Walsh. From Dist. 14 (Winston, Parker, Carmichael, Teague and Avery) Michael Davis, Paul Delamar and Jeff Donald, Dawnielle Gladden, Ed Page and Vinton Rozier. From Dist. 15 (Ehringhaus, Hinton James) Kendle Bryan, Harper Gordek, James Hoffman, Terrence McGill and Ian Rose. From Dist. 16 (Morrison, Craig) Josh Cohen-Peyrot, Jason Jolley, Jeremy Piercy and Nathan Powell. From Dist. 17 (Granville Towers) Scott Efrid, Trey Lindley and Scott Schaff. From Dist. 19 (area north of East Franklin Street, east of Columbia/Airport Roads and south of Estes Drive) Daniel Siceoff. From Dist. 21 (area bounded by Columbia Street, West Franklin Street, Jones Ferry Road and Highway 54 Bypass) Amar Athwal, Michael Simmons, Andrew Fernandez and Kameron White. From Dist. 22 (area north of West Franklin Street and Jones Ferry Road and west of Columbia Street and Airport Road) Charlie Roederer.

No one is running in the following districts: Dist. 2 (graduate students in education, journalism and social planning), Dist. 3 (graduate students in city and regional planning, economics, geography, history, political science, public administration, ecology and sociology), Dist. 5 (graduate students in information and library sciences, anthropology, art, drama, operational research, classics, music, philosophy and religion), Dist. 6 (graduate students in physics, marine sciences, geology, chemistry, biology, math, statistics and computer science), Dist. 7 (graduate students in biochemistry, cellular biology, biomedical engineering, genetics, microbiology/immunology, pathology, pharmacology, toxicology, physiology, physical education and psychology), Dist. 8 (graduate students in public health and nursing), Dist. 9 (graduate students in dentistry, medicine, pharmacy and neurobiology), Dist. 18 (area west of Columbia Street, south of Jones Ferry Road and south of Highway 54), Dist. 20 (area east of Columbia Street and south of East Franklin Street), Dist. 23 (area east of Columbia Street/Airport Road and north of East Franklin Street with the exception of Dist. 19).

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Campus Calendar

WEDNESDAY

11 a.m. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SHOWCASE: Embark on a free trip around the world as international students exhibit artifacts from their countries and answer questions until 2 p.m.

DISSERTATION SUPPORT GROUP: Handle the problems that block progress with specific strategies at the University Counseling Center in Nash Hall. Registration required; call 962-2175.

3:30 p.m. KEVIN HARRISON, of the department of botany, will speak on the impact of CO2 fertilization on soil carbon storage in room 05 Mitchell Hall at Duke. For further information, contact the Marine Sciences Program at 962-0152.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN GRADUATE STUDENTS: Discuss the challenges and explore the problem-solving strategies at the University Counseling Center in Nash Hall. Registration is required; call 962-2175.

4 p.m. STUDY ABROAD will hold an information session on its programs in Australia in 105 Caldwell Hall.

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