



STUDENT ELECTIONS REFERENDA

SBP's ex officio status Carolina Course Review

BY TERESA KILLIAN
STAFF WRITER

Students will vote Tuesday on a referendum that could eliminate ex officio status of the student body president and student body treasurer.

Ex officio status in Student Congress is nonvoting membership that allows unlimited speech and the right to make motions. Eliminating ex officio status would further separate executive and legislative powers.

"The referendum is worded so as to protect the student body president's capacity to officially communicate and work with Congress, while at the same time limiting his or her privilege to debate on whatever he likes," said Rep. James Hoffman, Dist. 15.

Student Body President Aaron Nelson said it was important for the president to be able to speak and be recognized. "It is important for there to be as many voices in Student Congress as

possible," Nelson said. "The student body president has unique access to information that members of Student Congress don't have."

Rep. Ed Page, Dist. 14, said the input of the president was invaluable.

"My feeling is that a lot of people really want to see this as a separation of powers, but the way our executive branch and Student Congress works, I see it as extremely beneficial to have the input of the president before we send this legislation on to him," Page said.

Rep. Kristen Sasser, Dist. 10, said the referendum clarified the distinction between the jobs of the legislative branch and the executive branch. She said the overlap made it hard for the legislative branch to get things done.

Rep. Bryan Kennedy, Dist. 4, said it was assumed that the president speaks for the entire student body. "I think the removal of the president will allow the Congress to stand as a second separate voice for student concerns."

BY KELLY O'BRIEN
STAFF WRITER

In light of many problems faced by the Carolina Course Review, the Student Fee Audit Committee has proposed two referenda that undergraduates will be given the opportunity to vote for on Tuesday.

The first referendum deals with publication on the Internet and the elimination of the 50-cent undergraduate fee devoted to the Carolina Course Review. The second provides options on how to allocate the fund collection of \$8,122 for the spring 1997 Carolina Course Review.

"The purpose behind the referendum is to find an alternate way of getting the information out to undergrads," said Rep. Dara Whalen, Dist. 8. "The written copy wasn't working."

The Carolina Course Review was brought to congressional scrutiny last year after financial mismanagement. This left the Carolina Course Review in debt and unable to publish a fall 1996 issue.

Julie Gasperini, student body treasurer and a member of the SFAC, said the Carolina Course Review was not intended to be the extensive and high quality book that was created when it was originally placed on the ballot in 1993.

"After production last spring, we still have hundreds of copies left," Gasperini said.

"It became an emergency situation because they had gone into debt and overspent on printing."

After meeting with former members

of the Carolina Course Review and the Student Activities Fund Office, the SFAC devised a plan.

They determined that on-campus technological advances created the option of placing the information online. This option would not only be free, but would reduce student fees.

Gasperini said most Student Congress members were in favor of disbanding the fee.

"Everyone has been supportive," Gasperini said in reference to the first referendum. "There have been no objections."

The second referendum provides students with two options on spending the collected money. The money will either be devoted to upgrading the publication online and installing computers for reading the Carolina Course Review, or it will be given to Student Congress to be distributed among student organizations.

Student Congress members are not in agreement on the issue.

"I would like to see the funds turned over to the Student Congress," said Rep. Erik Bentsen, Dist. 22. "A lot of organizations could use the money."

Whalen disagreed. "Students voted for the 50-cent fee which showed they want this resource," she said. "Since the money has been allocated, it should be used to start the web site."

The SFAC does not have a preference for either option. Members feel the referendum will have a positive effect, Gasperini said. "It will publicize the fact that the information is available. It also sets a precedent for decreasing or eliminating student fees."

TURNOUT

FROM PAGE 1

understand the roles of the student body president and Student Congress.

"The SBP and Congress have oversight and input into the spending of nearly \$2 million in student fees," Nelson said.

Nathan said students often could not see differences between the candidates' platforms.

He said, "The key problem is that student government isn't seen as an entity that affects most students' lives."

LaKeisha Rodman, a junior from Charlotte, said campus involvement enabled students to see how student government can affect their lives.

"Students involved in campus activities may be more inclined to follow student politics and more likely to vote," Rodman said.

Though many people said that students were apathetic toward student government, Dervin disagreed.

"We always talk about how low our

turnout is; turnout tends to be 10 to 20 percent around the country," Dervin said.

"At least 3,000 student voters were undergraduates, and that's about 30 percent of interested returning undergraduates."

"We have one of the most respected, strongest student governments in the nation," Dervin said. "Sometimes (students) don't see the relevance, but it doesn't mean they're apathetic."

UNC-system President C. D. Spangler said he felt apathy significantly factored in the turnout rate and that it was growing.

"It tends to remove the opportunity for the students' position to be heard on the University campus when students don't come out to vote," Spangler said.

Roederer said he encouraged all students to vote.

"Students have an opportunity to make change if they go to the polls and vote," he said.

"Anybody and everybody can do that."

Campus Calendar

Tuesday

11 a.m.-1 p.m. — The Sigma Gamma Rho sorority Inc. will present a video series titled "Eyes on the Prize" this week in the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center. The series will continue on Thursday and Friday at the same time.

4 p.m. — There will be a meeting of the Diabetes Support Group on the second floor of Student Health Service in the psychological services conference room. Call 966-6562 for more information.

Black History Month spotlight

Carl Stokes (1927-)

Carl Stokes has been a lawyer, mayor and a newscaster. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio. A child of the Cleveland central-city ghetto, Stokes was raised by his mother. After serving in the U.S. Army, he continued his education after an interruption of a few years as an agent of the state liquor authority. Stokes received a B.S. degree in law from the University of Minnesota in 1954, and two years later, he received his L.D. degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law of Cleveland State University.

For the Record

The Feb. 10 article "BSM blood drive targets African-American donors" should have stated that the Black Business Students Alliance is a sponsor of the Umoja Sasal Blood Drive. It also should have stated that the blood drive will be held Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the errors.

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ACC TOURNAMENT DISTRIBUTION

UNC Students are eligible to sign up for the opportunity to purchase ACC Tournament tickets during the week of February 10-14 from 10am until 1pm under the Union Canopy, adjacent to the Pit.