

Leaders select Liles as solicitor general

BY BRIAN HUDSON
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

June 3 — Matt Liles, former speaker pro tem of Student Congress and former student body president candidate, will continue his role as a student leader this year in his recently appointed positions of UNC-Chapel Hill's solicitor general and vice president for legislative affairs for the UNC-system Association of Student Governments.

Liles' appointment to solicitor general came from his knowledge of student government and the University's Student Code, said UNC-CH Student Body Vice President Alexa Kleysteuber.

"He's so interested in all the aspects of student government, so this was the perfect place to put him," she said.

As solicitor general, Liles will be responsible for the interpreting the numerous aspects of the code.

"I feel great about it," he said. "I think we can do a lot of things ... I want to make sure it's a position of value and worth to the way that student government operates."

Liles said he wants to make certain that his interest lies not with members of student government, but rather in ensuring that the code is as fair as possible.

"I really feel that my duty is to

the code and to students," he said.

Liles also is heading an independent committee that will review the Student Code during the summer and make recommendations for revision to Student Congress during the fall. Both he and Kleysteuber said this task will help him become more knowledgeable of the Student Code — something with which he is already very familiar, Kleysteuber said.

"I think it's a very valuable thing," Liles said. "I'll see exactly how it functions." By reviewing the code, he explained, he will become more acquainted with the clauses of the code that cause the most problems and are the most vague and ambiguous.

Student Body President Matt Calabria, who approved Kleysteuber's recommendation, said he is confident in Liles' ability.

"Matt Liles is one of the University's best experts on the Student Code. He has a really great working knowledge of the Student Code and its strengths and weakness," Calabria said. "He has a proven ability to work well with Student Congress and the executive branch — and he is also very hard working."

Liles also was recently appointed as the ASG's vice president of



Former SBP candidate Matt Liles was appointed this summer as UNC's solicitor general.

legislative affairs, making him responsible for the coordination of federal and state lobbying efforts among UNC-system schools.

"We at Carolina, as a flagship institution ... can both lead and be helped by the ASG," he said. "They deal with things that smaller schools need because (those schools) don't have a great students affairs division like we do ... but one place that we all need help is with the legislature."

"I'd like to take it to another level, helping and advocating for other schools."

Liles said in his position he also will be involved in the ongoing efforts of the ASG, including "helping students lobby better, helping students vote better."

"This year we look to take it to our federal officials more and more, too."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

ASG's unity to face test under UNC-CH official

Group looks to patch up past quarrels

BY CHRIS COLETTA
MANAGING EDITOR

June 10 — In the past, the relationship between UNC-Chapel Hill and the UNC-system Association of Student Governments has been anything but cordial.

Two years ago, former Student Body President Jen Daum didn't send delegates to ASG meetings, citing what she said was the group's ineffectiveness. And last year, animosity ran high as student leaders from smaller universities lambasted Matt Tepper, then the UNC-CH student body president, after he got off the line in a conference call.

Now, however, leaders from both UNC-CH and the ASG say those problems are in the past, and they can point to a number of occurrences to prove their case.

Foremost among those is the appointment of UNC-CH solicitor general Matt Liles as the ASG's vice president for legislative affairs — an appointment that propels the Tar Heel to one of the association's top spots.

"We're trying very hard to have a much better relationship with the ASG than we've had sometimes in the past," said Matt Calabria, UNC-CH student body president.

In his new position, Liles will be responsible for leading the ASG's efforts to lobby UNC-system officials, in addition to state legislators and congressmen. It's the job ASG President Amanda Devore held before she was elected, and it's also the job Calabria and Liles said is most appropriate for a UNC-CH student.

"The position I'm appointed to ... is the area where I can see Carolina gain the most from its association with ASG," Liles said. He added that almost all system students want the same things from the N.C. General Assembly and the UNC-system Board of Governors, namely reductions in tuition hikes and adequate classroom experiences.

By contrast, he said, the ASG also takes time to deal with developing the resources of the system's smaller campuses. Calabria said such work does not always translate well to the University, which already has many resources in place.

"UNC-CH's interests aren't always aligned with those of the system," Calabria said.

"But making sure we can col-

laborate on those issues where our interests are aligned is going to be helpful."

But some ASG members disagree.

For example, one of the main complaints in last year's conference call was that UNC-CH delegates are often aloof and unwilling to work with the association on all issues. And Devore said she disagrees with the idea that UNC-CH and the ASG aren't intertwined.

But she added that if spats occur only because of policy issues, things are going well.

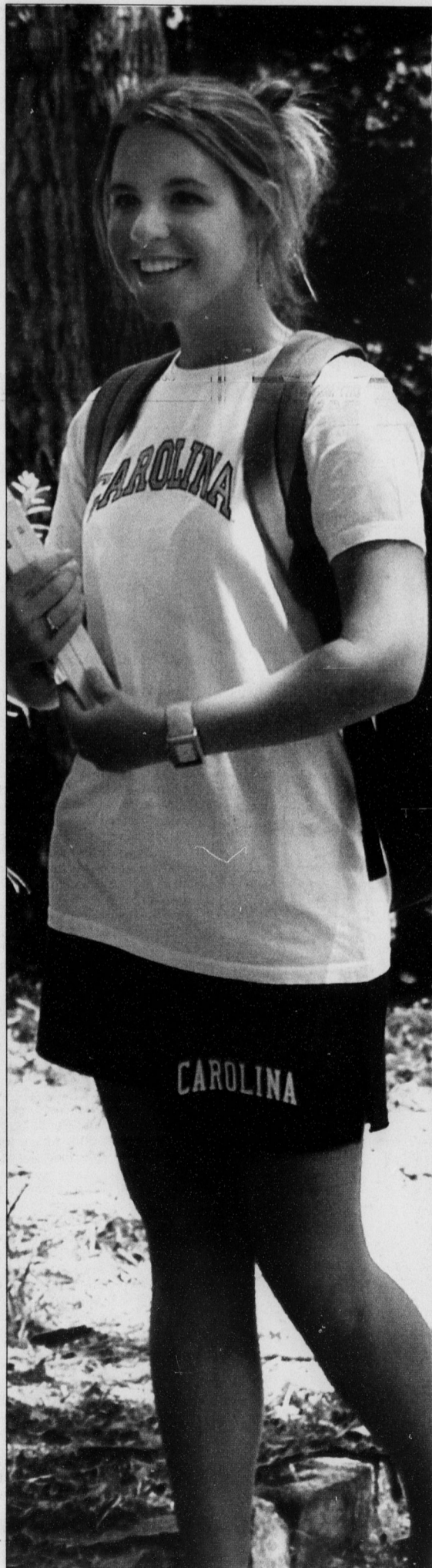
"Any rifts that may or may not have occurred in the past, I don't really believe exist anymore," said Devore, who appointed Liles to his position. She added that keeping open the lines of communication will help assuage any problems that existed before.

It is that communication and unity that will be vital if the ASG is to improve on what it deems recent successes.

And that is a fact, Liles said, that he recognizes.

"I'm a Tar Heel first, but I'm going to have to help lead the charge for all 16 campuses."

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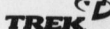


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