

Hopefuls look to address advising

Seek to provide student input

BY BRIAN AUSTIN
STAFF WRITER

Although the three student body president candidates echoed similar themes for improving academic advising, each platform has subtle differences.

Campaign proposals range across a gamut of suggestions, from group and study abroad peer advising to student assistance in finding and hiring faculty.

"I think for advising to be efficient and effective, you need to have a diversity of systems for a diversity of needs," candidate J.J. Raynor said.

Raynor's goals center around providing further programs for students, which try to address more individualized needs.

Academic Advising Associate Dean Carolyn Cannon said that the student body president does not have any official power to implement changes or programs in advising.

But Cannon said the advising department takes student input, particularly that of the student body president, into consideration.

Cannon said that the student body president should facilitate student feedback to influence advising programs.

Previously, student government has conducted surveys in collaboration with advising and the Office of Institutional Research.

She also believes it is important for candidates to discuss their plans with advisers and advising administrators while creating their campaign promises.

Academic advising is currently under review by the Board of Trustees committee on academic advising.

Kristin Hill has a slightly different focus.

Her proposals for advising would require extended coordination among academic departments, advising and administration.

She stressed student access to information and campaigned on increasing the availability of information on courses, such as online course syllabi. Hill said she also is

	Kristin Hill	Logan Liles	J.J. Raynor
Peer Advising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote peer advising for undergraduate research. Implement group advising. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand and refine Eve Carson's administration's peer advising program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement peer advising for research. Support Carson administration's peer advising program.
Electronic Advising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on access to course information online, including course evaluations and syllabi. Make listservs for every academic department. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not addressed in platform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start electronic instant messaging with advisers. Start live advising chats.
Career Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an academic open house. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise C-TOPS and T-SOP academic advising. Identify and enhance undergraduate research opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an independent pre-graduate advising program.
Study Abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to make the process of credit transfers more efficient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerate transfer of credits by working with registrar's office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create peer advising program for study abroad.
Registrar's Office Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to allow graduating seniors to register before juniors with senior standing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove restrictions of majors from registration. Translate the pre-2006 and post-2006 curriculums. Purge classes that have not been offered in four semesters. Make priority registration available to all students. Oppose the Achievement Index. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with University Registrar Alice Poehls to incorporate Enterprise Resource Planning into advising.

See Tuesday's paper for two pages of candidate profiles

interested in the design stages of the enterprise resource planning project that aims to transform the University's online advising systems.

"Student input and student feedback throughout that process are vital," Hill said.

Four of her core staff members also serve on the student ERP advisory group, she said.

Logan Liles focused instead on helping students understand the issues involved in advising, emphasizing the need for student voices

in reforming advising.

"We want it to be something where we have a comprehensive sort of advising because we're spending a lot of resources on advising," he said. "We want the student to have somewhere to go at every turn."

Liles conceded that an adviser's job is not always making every student happy and that some things students want can't be done.

He echoed Hill, saying that advising is essential for future planning.

His platform emphasizes improving the system that is already in place and introduces fewer new advising programs than the other candidates.

All three of the candidates show a similar resolve for delivering answers to the complex problems faced by advising.

"At the end of the day, if solutions don't work for students, they don't work," Raynor said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Impact of forum choices is unclear

BY MEGHAN E. WOODS
STAFF WRITER

Long before student votes will be tallied, student groups have already cast their votes for who the next student body president should be.

Aside from dormstorming, campaign signs and A-frames, endorsements have become a staple of UNC's election season, with each group hoping its endorsement will influence the outcome of the election.

Since the beginning of campaigning, at least 10 student groups have hosted forums to address the candidates' platforms and agendas.

Logan Liles has five endorsements from the forums, Kristin Hill has four and J.J. Raynor has two. Raynor has received endorsements from several other groups that haven't held forums.

Liles said he thinks endorsements are beneficial because they provide reassurance. "They let us know that all parts are buying into the messages that we have," he said. "When it actually comes to getting votes, they help a lot."

Hill said that it's the ability to explain her agenda that make endorsements valuable.

"The best thing is being able to go to forums and talk about your platform to a group of people who are curious about exactly that," she said. "Forums are more focused on platforms and getting to know the candidate."

But Raynor, who received her first endorsement Thursday, said personal endorsements are just as important as group endorsements.

"It's been such a personal campaign, and it's so much more important to talk to people," she said.

At each forum, the candidates discussed their platforms and fielded questions from the audience.

"They were all really informed about campus policies," said Erica Rafferty, president of the Out-of-State Student Association.

Although endorsements are part of campaigning, there is not a clear correlation between the number of endorsements and winning office.

In 2005 candidate Tom Jensen garnered the most endorsements with six but lost the race. But in last year's student elections, Eve Carson had the most and won the election. Many group leaders said that this

Endorsements

Kristin Hill: 4
Di-Phi
Young Democrats
College Republicans
Bounce

Logan Liles: 5
Out-of-State Student Association
Black Student Movement
Chispa
Residence Hall Association
Order of the Bell Tower

J.J. Raynor: 5
GLBTSA
GPSF
Chips
Environmental groups
Blue & White magazine

year it was often one single platform point that gave one candidate the edge over another. Rafferty said Liles' ideas about tuition predictability led OSSA to endorse him.

"We really liked his approach to fighting tuition increases," she said. "We felt that it was something we could get in line with."

Charissa Lloyd, chairwoman of the College Republicans, said the group endorsed Hill for her policies on campus waste management.

"It's important that we have a student body president that's concerned about that," she said.

But UNC's Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies members said their endorsement was based on more than just candidate platforms.

"We wanted to pick a person that we thought is best for the University," said Andrew Pham, president of Di-Phi, adding that the group had to vote several times before Hill emerged the winner. "It really came to the question of, 'What does this campus need at this time?'"

Although the candidates said they are grateful for their endorsements, some still question how endorsements affect students.

"I don't think (students) pay attention to them at all," Hill said.

Liles said different factors influence students' attention to endorsements. "I think they're more interested if they're in an organization that gives an endorsement."

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