

Editorial Opinion

Analysis of Party Platforms—Spring 1962

Today, we are presenting our views on the platforms presented by both slates of candidates running for all-University office.

University

We propose to change our present obsolete grading system to a more realistic and fair one, under which the student will receive a grade equivalent to that which he has actually earned. Under the present system an average between 80 and 89 is assigned a 3.00. Under our plan an 80 would equal a 3.00, an 87 a 3.70, and so forth.

Although University party candidates claim that this plan can be implemented, it would take a considerable amount of research to determine whether professors can actually differentiate between a grade of say 86 and 87.

No doubt many professors who give objective tests will find it difficult to assign grades to the nearest percentage point, but in the case of subjective or essay exams it would be virtually impossible to determine a student's grade precisely.

Even if all professors could assess a student's grade to the nearest percentage point, this plan wouldn't be feasible for students already attending the University because the present system and the proposed system aren't mathematically compatible.

If the proposed plan were adopted it would be necessary to have two grading systems operating simultaneously, since the new system couldn't be used for old students. This would require most instructors to employ two systems of grading.

More important than the technical difficulties of implementing this proposed change in the grading system, we strongly believe that this plan would undermine the basic duty and purpose of a University by increasing the emphasis on grades.

A University is a place to learn, not a place to earn grades.

We feel that a good way to boost Penn State spirit is to give recognition to alumni who have been outstanding.

We propose to do this in the following way:

- Placing a portrait with a synopsis of the individual's Penn State and later accomplishments on the walls of campus buildings.

Although we agree that student spirit could use a shot in the arm, we do not feel the proposed "alum gallery" will accomplish this feat.

- Producing a movie featuring our alumni which would be shown to all incoming freshmen.

We're rather skeptical about this. What would the movie show? What would the alumni be doing in the film?

It seems that this movie could turn into a "hammy" production that would promote more ridicule than sincere school spirit.

- Promote a periodic feature in the Collegian devoted to our outstanding alumni.

A good idea and we'd be glad to cooperate.

We propose to establish a Student Opinion Bureau, which would contact students at random by phone to determine students' feelings on pertinent subjects concerning the USG Congress.

The present system of representation in USG Congress was painstakingly developed in an attempt to make each Congressman truly represent the 500 students in his constituency.

It is the job of each Congressman and not a proposed superstructure to determine and evaluate the opinions of his constituency.

The USG shall sponsor a regular column devoted to USG activity in the Collegian.

We will support anything that will further interest and foster support for USG, so we will be happy to accept such a column in the form of an advertisement.

Prompting the installation of phones to make free off-campus calls from centrally located areas, and the installation of additional residence hall lobby phones where needed.

Good idea.

We propose to publicize the procedures of our student judicial and tribunal systems. This would include informing the students of their rights and of the procedure to be used before, during, and after the hearing.

This is good, but much more is needed in this area. We are very sorry that University party doesn't have anything to say about rectifying the present judicial system, which is often undemocratic and poorly administered.

We propose that women 21 years old and over be permitted to visit apartments in town.

We strongly endorse this proposal. A change in the Senate regulations has been proposed several times in the past, but the out-dated rule still stands. We feel every effort to modernize the apartment ruling should be made.

We would like to sponsor an all-University work day at Stone Valley.

Although this would entail a huge organizational job, it might be feasible if the project were spread out over a longer period of time.

We propose to sponsor transportation to and from Stone Valley.

We endorse this idea.

We propose to take a survey to determine areas of recreation in which students desire instruction.

We feel enough outlets are already available for stu-

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Campus-Liberal

We propose the establishment of a more closely knit men and women's council in order to further facilitate social and other activities.

This broad, nebulous proposal, if adopted, would overlap the present efforts of other organizations such as the local AWS councils and the men's area councils.

We believe the HUB offers many opportunities for a social and recreational activity board.

We favor a student-run HUB board which would coordinate present HUB social and recreational activities, and sponsor others such as dances.

We propose the establishment of a doctor in residence at Ritenour Health Center and the establishment of full dental care.

We agree. But, we also realize that the health center operated in the "red" last year. Therefore, we strongly urge that the University allocate more money for the health center, so they can maintain a doctor on duty at night and expand their dental facilities.

Because this requires administrative and not student government action, we feel the USG should strongly urge action in this area.

We propose the establishment of a policy whereby women over 21 years of age will be allowed in men's apartments under the stipulation that they have had no previous offense in this area.

We support this plank which is endorsed by both slates.

We propose to establish Penn State's participation in NSA (National Student Association) in order to make full use of its advantages such as a textbook discount of 10-20 per cent and participation in the national student movement.

Many of the services offered member schools by NSA such as a low-cost trip to Europe, surveys on college organizations and identification cards for student rates in Europe can be had through other channels open to non-members.

The NSA claims to be the voice of the students of America. However, due to its representative organization, the opinions and policies it endorses represent the opinion of the majority of its members only.

NSA offers member schools a 10 to 20 per cent discount on textbooks ordered through its mail-order book service. We approve of the possible discount but question the efficiency of a mail-order system with the frequent text purchase required by the four-term plan.

We recommend that the exclusive benefits of membership in NSA be carefully weighed against the expenses involved and a careful study of the pros and cons of membership made by USG before any action is taken.

We propose the establishment of due process in disciplinary action.

As explained by candidates running on this platform, this plank proposes that students be informed of their rights and privileges prior to appearing before judicial board. We believe the plank completely misses the point in the discussion of the student disciplinary system.

We strongly believe a complete revision of the system, as is now being studied by both a USG committee and the Senate Committee on Student Affairs, should be made to give students a more democratic disciplinary system.

We propose the continuation and expansion of the transportation facilities for the students of Penn State.

We endorsed this plan when it was presented to USG for consideration and believe that it is basically a good idea. The instigation of direct bus service to several of the largest cities of the state is being planned for the end of this term. We criticize this plank, however, for it seeks to take credit for things that have already been planned without defining an extension to these achievements.

We propose to expand WDFM's facilities to AM listeners.

Again, this is a plan that has already been considered by USG. We continue to support this idea, the feasibility of which is now being studied by a USG committee.

We believe this plank is useless as it stands. It gives no indication as to how such a proposal could be implemented.

Letters

Baker Candidacy Supported

TO THE EDITOR: Since it is election time again in the Nittany Valley, we students are being subjected to another barrage of propaganda concerning candidates and platforms. I would like to ask my fellow students to consider two criteria in comparing the USG vice presidential candidates. These criteria are initiative and experience.

Because your time is limited, and you are probably hurrying to classes I will discuss only Morris Baker. Besides, if there is any point in favor of George Gordon, he has yet to show it to us. The University party vice presidential candidate, Morris Baker, has experience all of which is too vast to mention.

Therefore I will only mention a small part of his executive training. Baker is currently president of the Liberal Arts Student Council, was vice president of this Council, and was chairman of the most successful Frosh-more Duo that was ever held. Mr. Baker has shown a great deal of initiative in these positions.

He has also shown his fellow students that he is interested in their benefit by visiting the Pennsylvania Budget Department in Harrisburg to find out how Penn State can get the funds that it needs and is entitled to as a state university. This is something that took his time and personal initiative.

Baker has also written to more than seventy-five other schools in order to compare grading systems. He has taken special precautions to insure the feasibility of his proposal before he presented it to those whom he wishes to represent.

Baker can lead the students at Penn State and he has. Vote for him so that he can continue to do so.

—Jack Palmer '64

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