



Photo by Eric Hegedus

Steve Lunger (9th-political science), left, and Jim Krauss (9th-political science) announced their candidacy for USG vice president and president, respectively, yesterday.

Race for USG officers begins

Krauss and Lunger to run for president, vice president

By MARCY MERMEL
Collegian Staff Writer

The race for Undergraduate Student Government officers began yesterday as Jim Krauss (9th-political science) and Steve Lunger (9th-political science) announced their candidacy for USG president and vice president. The elections are scheduled for March 31 and April 1.

Krauss has worked in all three branches of USG — executive, judicial and legislative. He is a USG fraternity senator and has served as associate justice on the USG Supreme Court, staff member of USG's department of political affairs and working representative for the USG Executive Council.

Lunger has served as president and secretary of the College of The Liberal Arts Student Council, a USG Centre Halls senator and the liberal arts representative to the USG's Academic Assembly.

Krauss said his top priority as USG president would be to improve the communication and organization of USG.

"Student government changes constantly," he said. "There's no continuity. I would like to see more lower term students getting involved and staying involved."

Students quit the senate because they "got flustered with the way it's run," Krauss said. "It's been presidentially dominated for the past few years. I'd like to see it dominated by the senate and led by the (USG) president," Krauss said.

"I want the group to brainstorm ideas and goals at the beginning of the year instead of depending on the president's ideas and goals," he said.

To do this, Lunger said the senate "needs to define its roles and responsibilities."

Krauss said senators often "see themselves as a governing body instead of a service organization providing a service and speaking for the students." Krauss said he would like to see the duties written down.

Lunger said, "With our background, we can help the senate and senate committees define their roles and set up guidelines so they know what to do when they meet."

Lunger also said the senate should take itself less seriously. "There are a lot of ego problems with many senators more interested in seeing what they have said in the paper the next day than in student goals," he said.

Krauss said, "There's a big bureaucracy in USG. People have to stop worrying so much about what's going to be said." He said if the atmosphere is "looser," it would be easier for people to get along and work together.

Because a few individuals do most of the work in the organization, too often USG concentrates on single issues while other issues are "put on the back burner," Krauss said. For example, since the Students Opposed to Financial Aid Reductions campaign began, issues such as the calendar conversion and minority recruitment have been played down, he said.

If more people become involved in USG, there would be "too many people to do one thing so they'll have to be helping with something else," he said.

One way to get more people involved would be to institute USG senate aides, he said. The aides would be "people from the senator's district that would work with

issues concerning their district and the whole student body," Krauss said.

Student input can also be gathered by conducting more surveys, Krauss said.

Lunger said internal changes would include making every other senate meeting a working session for committees. Fewer projects would be left to individuals because if senators meet with their committees, they will feel obligated to participate and accomplish more, he said.

Also, because USG department heads are often not aware of what other departments are doing, Krauss said he would hold biweekly internal affairs meetings.

Krauss, who is chairman of USG's constitution committee and its constitution and codes committee, said he would like to see the new USG constitution ratified as it was written, without an amendment bringing the executive council back into USG.

Lunger said the next USG administration should talk with the new University president. "The important concern for us as students and student leaders is the new president see USG as the student voice and accept us," he said.

Krauss said calendar conversion will also be a major issue during the next year and Academic Assembly will be an important link with the University.

"People have to start realizing that the assembly is their voice on academic matters," he said.

Krauss said students need to know that USG can actually do something. This year USG has begun to gain respectability and "I'd like a stretching and molding of what (USG President Bill Cluck) has started," he said.

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