

English lecturer a candidate in state House race this fall

By PATTI DIACONT
Collegian Staff Writer

Annabelle S. Wenzke, a University English composition lecturer, will be a Democratic candidate for the state House of Representatives in the 77th district this fall.

Wenzke said she has always wanted to run for public office, but teaching and raising a family kept her from pursuing that interest.

She was given the opportunity to seek public office in May when she accepted the nomination after Democratic candidate and former Philipsburg Mayor Ira Smades withdrew from the race.

"Personally, I had always intended to run for office when it could fit in with my family and my school work," Wenzke said. "Now I have finished my doctorate and my

children are old enough to participate in and share my success.

"Politically, I was intrigued by the position, but I was teaching and not ready to go into it in January. When the opportunity arose (because of Smades' withdrawal), I felt it was the right time," she said.

The 43-year-old State College resident is running against Republican incumbent Lynn Herman of Philipsburg and Consumer party candidate Tom Ortenberg of State College.

Wenzke plans to focus on the issues concerning the need for better representation in the 77th district noting that she plans to push for increased educational aid, the needs of the agricultural community and at the University's College of Agriculture and to bring to the

district business that could be stimulated by the University.

Tax reform in the school districts is also an important issue she intends to pursue, she added.

"My goals are going to be more for what the people need and want rather than just abstract issues," Wenzke said. "Although those abstract issues are important, they are not as important as the needs of the people who live here."

Wenzke, who has lived and worked in the 77th district for 14 years, says she is better qualified for the position than Herman because she "is not only aware of what is going on with the constituents in the district and the University, but I am also sympathetic to them."

Wenzke received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Gettys-



Collegian Photo
Annabelle S. Wenzke

burg College and a master's and a doctorate in religious studies from the University.

She has been an active member of the State College Area League of Women Voters, Citizens for Education and the performing arts committee of the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts.

USG to participate in voter registration drive

The Undergraduate Student Government Senate unanimously approved to participate in a student voter registration drive to increase student turnout in the November election.

In a meeting last night, USG President Adam Levinson said the organization will send people to dorms and major off-campus housing complexes to get "as many people as possible" registered to vote before the Oct. 6 deadline.

"The senate would be part of that group going out," Levinson said.

The senate will also participate in a turnout drive in which senators, along with people in the USG Political Affairs department, will call registered students and encourage them to vote, Levinson said.

While the phone solicitors might inform students of certain issues, Levinson said they will remain non-partisan.

Students will fill out the registration forms and immediately give

them back to solicitors, Levinson said. The USG will be responsible for getting them to the appropriate court house, he added.

Voter registration drives were ineffective in the past because although organizations set up tables and passed out registration forms, many students never turned the forms in, Levinson said.

In other business, Glenn Helbling, project manager for the Lion Country Discount Card, said USG Business Department needed senators to help distribute the cards to faculty and staff members.

Helbling said it was important that the cards were distributed and used because downtown businesses were dissatisfied with a discount card put out by University Press International last year.

Out of the 14 downtown businesses who bought space on the University Press card, only two bought space on the USG card, Helbling said.

—by Steve Wilson

By BILL FERRELL
Collegian Staff Writer

New school may be on the horizon

As an outgrowth of the University's strategic planning process, University President Bryce Jordan has appointed a study group to determine the feasibility of establishing a school of communications, Marlowe Froke, chairman of the study group, said yesterday.

The study group is holding open meetings tomorrow and Friday at 7 p.m. at the Alumni Lounge in Old Main to hear student views on the proposed school, said Froke, who is also general manager of the University's Division of Learning and Telecommunications Services.

Students in journalism, speech communications, telecommunications and related majors are invited, he said.

"The purpose of the sessions is to give students in the University the chance to put their ideas into the study process," R. Dean Mills, director of the School of Journalism, said.

The committee has met three times thus far to collect data, Froke said.

"We're still in the early stages," Froke said. "It is premature to talk about findings."

The committee is doing both an internal assessment and an external assessment through outside consultants, he said.

"We're looking at the environment in which

such a school would function," Froke said. Committee members will also consider job availability in their assessment.

The committee will explore possible missions and goals of the proposed school, Mills said.

"We've discussed the possible methods of organizing such a school if it were to come about," Mills said.

At this point it is unclear what majors would be incorporated into the proposed school, he said. "If any components were to be put together, the main advantages would be more efficient use of University resources and better visibility of all mass communications programs."

The most obvious disadvantage of the proposed school is that faculty become unsettled during any structural change, Mills said.

"I think that the proper kind of school of communications would not only make for a better program, but it would lead very quickly to an increased reputation for all communication degrees from Penn State," he said.

Also, a proposed unified program would do a better job of educating students because of better coherence, Mills said.

The committee will be trying to figure out the relative advantages and disadvantages of the different organizational structures for the school, he said.

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