

USG sees large candidate turnout for elections

By Devon Lash

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The official ballot for the March 30 Undergraduate Student Government (USG) election was released yesterday at noon with seven executive tickets competing for president and vice president and 24 students vying for 27 USG Senate seats.

Elections Special Counsel Shawn Gordon said the large turnout of candidates may be because of recent controversies in USG.

Last year there were five executive tickets and 12 students running for Senate.

The 24 students running for Senate are Samantha Rubinton, East Halls; Nick Klein, Eastview Terrace; Richard Rump, Alex Ibrahim, North Halls; Margaret Emerick, Michael Tomaselli, Pollock Halls; Kim Roth, Brock Coleman,

Henry Hund, South Halls; Nicholas Stathes, Patrick Bond, Joshua Ream, Matthew Cravitz, Alfred Fluehr, Vicky Cangelosi, Corey Bartholomew, Mary Ellen Oleksiuk, Keith Crouse, Charles Buchanan, Andy Banducci, Mikhail Huton, Richard Pastena, Town; Ron Capurso, Leigh Silkunas, West Halls.

There are still open seats for East Halls, Eastview Terrace and Town senators.

The first meet-the-candidates session will be held from 4:30 until 7 p.m. tomorrow in Findlay Commons.

The presidential candidates and three of each of their platform goals include:

Galen Foulke (junior-premedicine) and Luke Adams (junior-premedicine):

- Incorporate small amenities on campus to improve student experience
- Make the campus a more welcoming

and accepting community

- See the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Committee adopted

Mahmoud Ablan (junior-political science) and Kyle Aucker (junior-industrial engineering):

- Reduce cost of liability insurance for Greek organizations
- Initiate mandatory diversity and sexual assault training for student leaders
- Work to increase state funding and lower student tuition

Nicholas Palazzo (sophomore-business) and Nicholas Guiliano (freshman-finance)

- Update the university policy regarding privacy
- Improve relationship between USG and Greek organizations

- Increase student involvement in student government

Michael Peters (sophomore-political science and psychology) and Ross Moore (junior-mechanical and nuclear engineering):

- Improve Late Night Penn State
- Implement forums to foster cooperation between student organizations and USG
- Create a system to match students' interests with on-campus groups

Robert Dinkelspiel (junior-business management) and Joseph Budd (junior-finance):

- Weekly "fireside chats" in the HUB-Robeson Center and radio address
- Incorporate Race Relations Projects and Straight Talks into First Year Seminar (FYS)
- Utilize HUB space better by using

Alumni or Heritage Hall for student lunches

Scott Sherbine (junior-communication arts and sciences) and Alex Ibrahim (sophomore-political science):

- Increase lobbying trips to Harrisburg and ask administration to cut down costs
- Reunite the legislative bodies of USG to ensure maximum benefits for students
- Create neighborhood watches to increase campus safety

Mark Taticchi (sophomore-political science and economics) Rodney Hughes (sophomore-economics):

- Incorporate diversity and student safety into FYS
- Put required student textbooks online
- Make USG more student centered

Petition

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"The case is coming to a culmination and I'm here to raise public opinion in order to save an innocent life like Terri," TFP volunteer Ted Huereña said.

The controversy started after Schiavo became brain-damaged.

Schiavo's husband, who has legal custody over her, ordered the removal of her feeding tube. Her parents and family, though, want her to live.

"I'm not sure what the husband's motives are, but it seems selfish of him to not take the family into consideration," said Chandler Brennehan (sophomore-business management), who filled out a petition. "The lady can't even do anything about her situation."

Ritchie said Schiavo's husband has lawyers that are aided by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and proponents of euthanasia.

Mary Katherine Roper, a staff attorney with the Pennsylvania ACLU, said the Florida chapter of the ACLU became involved when the courts determined that Schiavo did not want to be kept alive.

"The intent was determined by the court, and that's what we think should be enforced," Roper said. "So we opposed any action that the legislature and governor would do to overturn this."

Ritchie said pro-life supporters are against starving Schiavo because it would be comparable to euthanasia.

"Here, we have a lady who can't defend herself," Huereña said.

"Are we coming to a point in our society where if you can't provide for



John Gaval (senior-psychology) debates with John Mahoney, of Spring Grove, after being asked to sign the petition to help the case of Terri Schiavo in Florida.

"If there's a chance she can get better, then why would you starve someone. Her medical situation could improve and God could even heal her, who knows."

Sarah Robertson
senior-integrative arts

yourself, you should be killed?" Huereña added.

Sarah Robertson (senior-integrative arts) said she was not entirely familiar with Schiavo's situation before she signed the petition yesterday.

"If there's a chance she can get better, then why would you starve someone," Robertson said. "Her medical

situation could improve and God could even heal her, who knows."

Ritchie said the controversy concerns an important moral issue.

"It's the basic right of human life and it would be an utter disgrace for the country to let her die," he said.

"This would perhaps open the floodgates for more starvations to occur," Ritchie added.

Faculty Senate to focus on admissions report

By Christiana Varda

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A report focusing on enrollment management and admissions will be one of the informational reports presented at the University Faculty Senate meeting today.

Faculty Senate Chair Kim Steiner said even though there is no legislation being passed at today's meeting, some of the reports are rather significant, given the rising cost of tuition.

"[The report] shows that we're having some trouble meeting our targets [for admission retention] in all locations, and it's a great concern for the university," she said.

John Romano, vice provost and dean for enrollment management, said it is important to understand that Penn State is affected by outside factors.

"There are real threats in the external context, having to do with demographics, competition and the relatively high cost of tuition at Penn State," he said. "All those factors play on or affect the admissions outcome each year."

Romano said the report aims to promote awareness of these factors and encourage finding ways of mitigating them. "What I intended to do was ... to hopefully alert the entire university community to some of the issues at play because I think every single one of us has an important role to play in the admissions recruitment retention at the university," he said.

There will also be a report on the

increasing prices of the library's serial journals, which impact the library's ability to purchase other materials.

According to the report, costs have risen as much as 260 percent, and the library is trying to find ways of combating costs by eliminating some journal titles and resorting to electronic journals.

Peter Potter, editor-in-chief and associate director of University Press, is part of Penn State's Office of Digital Scholarly Publishing, a new venture between the University Libraries and University Press that will experiment with forms of digital publication.

"We are going to explore different options that electronic publishing makes possible," he said, adding that in the long run, it might reduce library costs. "We will be publishing in a more cost-efficient manner than some of the publishers use now."

Another report will focus on the progress of outreach in the past year.

Outreach is comprised of four units: continuing education and distance learning, cooperative extension, public broadcasting, and Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

Vice President of Outreach Craig D. Weidemann began reviewing and restructuring outreach where necessary to improve it for faculty members and the community.

"We are really focusing on outreach programs to meet the needs of people who utilize them," said Amy Neil, outreach communications and news manager.

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