

Students heard at SG elections

□ *Fusion and Voice parties campaign for office in the Fall 2001 Student Senate election.*

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The Gator Times staff

On Oct. 23 and 24, University of Florida students will cast their votes during the Fall 2001 Student Senate election.

Both the Fusion and Voice parties will campaign around Turlington Plaza and the Reltz Union prior to the election. The Fusion Party has been around since last spring while the Voice Party is new to UF this fall.

Fusion Party Chair Michelle Rosenthal stated the platforms and objectives for the Fusion Party.

"Our goals are to extend hours for the Southwest Recreational Center, improve academic policy, increase safety measures and listen to student's concerns," Rosenthal said.

In regards to academic policy, the Fusion Party intends to extend the drop/add period and change the policy on grade forgiveness.

Chair of the Executive Committee on Academic Policy is William McAllister. Fusion's goal is to give the students at UF more freedoms.

"Students are not granted enough freedom for their education at UF," McAllister said. "In contrast to other schools in the nation, UF has the shortest drop/add period and the hardest grade forgiveness policy."

The Fusion Party also hopes the city will annex a section of Alachua County to the City of Gainesville, which would extend the city limits to the 15,000 students who live there.

Natalie Hanan is the Student Government lobby director, and is in favor of the biggest annexation in Gainesville history.

"The annexation would protect long term bus routes, enable participation in city elections, lower utility bills and lower towing costs from \$90 to \$73," Hanan said.

The Voice Party places emphasis on students and encourages participation in Student Government. Its motto is "the silent majority speaks." Voice is running 26 candidates for Senate.

Voice's objectives are to make text

See **ELECTION** on **PAGE 2**



Photos: William L. Forver
Voice Party representative Jose Lema (above) and Fusion Party Senator John Bailey (left) promote their respective parties' platforms around campus on Friday afternoon.

ELECTION

from page 1

books tax free to students, increase the satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade leniency, revise the organizational bill of rights, establish advisory councils, improve transportation and promote the annexation.

Advisory councils would serve as town-hall type settings where students could voice their opinions and reach out to international, freshmen and graduate students.

Voice Campaign Manager James Argento said, "The Voice Party is committed to improving the life of the student body on and off campus."

Voice Party Chair Ken Kerns is concerned about students' feelings and involvement with student government.

"All students should get involved with the councils to, in turn, get involved with student government," Kerns said. "The 35,000 students who don't vote just don't realize how much student government affects them."

The Voice Party also places an emphasis on student organizations. Kerns was part of the Board of College Council, which funds student organizations.

"Everyone is fighting for nickels and dimes," said Kerns, who wishes to see more money go to all of the student organizations, not just certain ones.

Students can make their voices heard by voting on Oct. 23 and 24. Polling locations are based on living area.

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