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Hilltopics Staff

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HILLTOPICS

SPECIAL EXTENDED ELECTIONS EDITION

www.smu.edu/honors/hilltopics

volume three, issue sixteen

week of february 19, 2007

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SMU's future is in your hands, so don't drop the ball. Vote in the Student Body Elections this Wednesday–Thursday!

www.smu.edu/elections

What direction is SMU headed? The answer is up to you, so vote!

by James Longhofer

You have better things to do than think about Student Senate. Seriously. Without a doubt, there are things that are more pressing on your mind. Essays, relationships, the new Cowboys' coach and the latest episode of *24* come to mind as topics either more important or more entertaining than this week's Student Senate elections.

However, that doesn't mean that you shouldn't care.

The Student Senate is meant to be the place where student concerns are heard and, for better or worse, it is considered the voice of the entire student body. While the topics covered in every Tuesday meeting may not be earthshaking, the debates that happen have a real effect on you. If you care about anything that happens on campus, then you need to look at the people who are running for both Senate and the Student Body Officer positions.

Did you know that the Student Body President meets with President Turner every week? Did you know that the Student Body Secretary is responsible for changes to the Student Code of Conduct? Did you know that we have a new constitution on the ballot this year? The newly elected officers will be responsible for selecting the committee chairs, who will influence organization budgets and legislation dealing with student life. Unless you are graduating in May, the people chosen this week will affect your time at SMU.

The sad thing is that most students will not vote, in spite of the power that the SBO's and the senators have over student affairs. I have my own theories about why so few people care. The biggest reason is that students think that student government is useless. While they may not have much influence off the hilltop, your senators will be

responsible for responding to student concerns and making your time as a student at SMU better. Another reason is the perception that student government is full of pettiness and people who just like to hear themselves talk. As someone who was involved in Senate, I'm willing to admit there is some truth to this. Henry Kissinger once said that the reason why student politics is so bitter is that there is so little at stake, and this applies here. Because the issues only affect SMU, senators can have the tendency to go over the top. However, you can fix this. First, make sure you vote. Second, make sure you vote for people you know are good at working as a team. Choose people who don't need to feed their egos constantly. Finally, vote for people who like SMU and honestly want to make it better.

Student government has a reputation as the refuge of wannabe politicians, hacks, and resume-padders. This affects all college campuses, but there is a way to prevent this from happening: pay attention and vote.

I know that this sounds like work, and it is. This means that you as a voter will have to read candidate bios, talk to friends, look at student publications, and watch candidate debates. It's not fun, and as I said earlier, you have better things to do. However, students need to make sure they choose the right people to serve on the Student Senate, and here is the biggest reason why: *the Student Senate acts in your name*. Anything done by Senate or the Student Body Officers reflects on the entire student body. When you cast your ballot on Wednesday or Thursday, make sure you vote for people that you want to represent you and your university. Keep that in mind.

James Longhofer is a junior political science, economics, and public policy major.

We welcome submissions from all members of the SMU community. Letters to the editor should be up to 300 words in response to a previously published article. Contributions should be articles of up to 300–600 words on any topic or in response to another article. Please email your submission to hilltopics@hotmail.com by Wednesday at 7:00 PM to be included in the following week's publication. Special deadlines will be observed for breaking campus events. The opinions expressed in *Hilltopics* are those of the authors solely and do not reflect the beliefs of *Hilltopics* or any other entity. As such, *Hilltopics* does not publish anonymous articles.

Ever wonder where Student Senate comes from? Archivist highlights some of Senate's history.

by Joan Gosnell

From its first class, Southern Methodist University students have elected representatives to represent them to the faculty and administration. The Senate has operated under multiple constitutions and several names: student council, student caucus, council of the Student's Association, and finally the SMU Student Senate.

College and university student governments often serve as beginning places for students who have political ambitions. Some student governments have a great deal of power (and money) and can truly define student life, responsibilities and rights. Others have less independence and act as a rubber stamp for their institution's administration.

According to its website, the SMU Student Senate "initiates action on student concerns, adopts the Student Code of Conduct, provides student scholarships, provides scholarships, and is responsible for the appropriation of funds to student organizations."

The student council began shortly after SMU opened its doors in 1915. The first president was Umphrey Lee, who later became the fourth President of SMU. In early days, students voted for the usual positions of president, secretary and representatives, but they also voted for cheerleaders (until the 1970s) and editor of the student newspaper and *Rotunda* (until the 1960s).

During the Depression, the Student Council twice voted to lower student activity fees and also used its voice to try to change policies to allow student dances to be held on campus. SMU held its first on-campus dance in 1940. During World War II, the Student Council raised \$6,900 for War Bonds. Controversies arose throughout the 1930s

The most notable changes to student governance and, in fact, all campus governance took place in 1970 with the creation the University Assembly with faculty, student and administrative representatives. The University Assembly recommended student activity fees, planned university convocations, and established safety and security rules. During the 1970s, the Student Senate fought for continued "shared governance" through various petitions to the University President and Board of Trustees—especially concerning the forced resignation of University President Hardin in 1974.

During the 1980s, 1990s and this century, the Student Senate has:

- Created a standing committee for Faculty evaluations
- Established the student Senate Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Voted to fund campus-wide call boxes and established a fund for taxi service
- Established a formal liaison between the Student Senate and the board of Governors
- Debated fervently over the recognition of GLSSO (Gay/Lesbian

Student Support Organization) and after several years voted to give recognition to this group

- Established recycling programs
- Proposed and funded "Three Weeks for Relief" campaign assisting students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Student governments both must lead and follow the will and needs of students.

Joan Gosnell is the University Archivist. The SMU University Archives is located in the DeGolyer Library. Students are welcomed to do research on the University's history.



Do you have an opinion about... politics, music, class, television, football, shopping, intramurals, fraternities, movies, tests, the Mavs, sex, restaurants, religion, sororities, driving, study abroad, Umphrey Lee, fashion, news, the war, parking, technology, magazines, bars, baseball, the weather, professors, the Mustang Band, dating, books, nightclubs, Texas, the Daily Campus, pets, club sports, or anything else ?

we're listening at hilltopics@hotmail.com

President Russ wants you...to vote for your fellow students and for the referendum

by Taylor Russ

I was really surprised the other day when I read a letter to the editor in the *Daily Campus* that discussed voting in the upcoming elections for Student Senate. I was surprised that the student misunderstood the purpose of the referendum which is to update the Student Body Constitution. I was disappointed that this particular student had never voted in one student wide election. On February 21st and 22nd, please take 30 seconds out of your day to vote for your fellow students in the elections. I am confident that the student body understands the importance of voting and I will not drone on with a list of reasons why you should vote. I will say that all of the candidates running are highly qualified and will do well to represent your interests.

Now, if I were a first-time voter I would have two questions in mind. First, what does the Student Senate do that is worthy of taking my time to vote? Second, what does the referendum on the constitution say, and why should I vote for it? First of all, your fellow students on Student Senate devote a ton of their time to improving our community. They do this by distributing almost 1 million dollars to keep our student events and programs running. The Senate also works to protest to the administration about rising tuition costs, the quality of on-campus food services and to encourage the university to offer a greater assortment of majors and minors. The Student Senate also worked hard to provide you with academic scholarships. This year the Senate was able to re-allocate money in our endowment that effectively tripled 17 of our scholarships, the largest of which increased to \$18,000 distributed over 3 years. These are just a few of the items Student Senate works on, but what about this referendum to update the constitution?

Over the fall semester, I appointed an ad-hoc committee, referred to as the "Constitutional Convention," to research and review our Student Body Constitution. This ad-hoc committee had student representatives from all over the student body and was tasked with reviewing and updating our constitution. A complete document review of the constitution had not been done in years. Over the semester, the committee made many grammatical and procedural changes that simplified and clarified our constitution. The Senate reviewed these changes and approved them unanimously. My whole goal for having this convention, and for tasking another committee to review and simplify the other structures of the Student Senate, was so that we could finally make the Student Senate an efficient and effective body for addressing student issues and concerns. This referendum to update the Student Body Constitution is one of the last pieces of this efficiency review. In years to come, it is my hope that the Student Senate will no longer need to focus on its internal

structure, but will only focus on student issues and working with the administration to address our concerns.

Now, I want to refer back to the letter to the editor piece in the *Daily Campus*. What that student said about the changes to the constitution is completely false. The student was referring to the change in the constitution that will require a student interested in running for the Student Body Officer positions to be a previous or current member of the Student Senate. This student said that this change will restrict potential candidates from running for the SBO positions if he or she has not been a previous senator or officer of the Student Senate. Again, this is not true. The change to the constitution does require potential candidates to have been previously a member of the Student Senate, but anyone can be a member! If you are not elected or appointed in the Student Senate you can join as a general member of one of the committees. General members are not elected or appointed but can join the Senate through a simple application process. No one is turned down in this process, and I encourage anyone interested to please submit an application. There are only a few changes to the Student Body Constitution, and they are changes that will only help the student body.

In closing, I want to encourage again everyone to vote. Vote for your friends or vote for the students that you think will do a good job. The point is VOTE! Vote yes on the referendum because it will only make Student Senate stronger and will allow us to more efficiently address your concerns. This is my 4th and final year in our student government, and I have never seen this chamber succeed as it has this year. The Student Senate is poised to do great things in years to come. If I had another four years here I would definitely try to be a part of it. Vote at smu.edu/elections.

Taylor Russ is a senior finance major. He is also the current Student Body President.



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Still not quite sure who you should vote for? No worries...*Hilltopics* will tell you what to do

Last Tuesday the *Hilltopics* editorial board sat down with all 10 of the current Student Body Officer candidates. We were given the opportunity to talk with each of them about many current issues, issues that we at *Hilltopics* feel are the most controversial and the most important. Based on our conversations and interactions with all the candidates in these meetings we are prepared and excited to present the following endorsements:

John Jose for Secretary

Hilltopics is endorsing first-year John Jose for Student Body Secretary. Out of the three outstanding candidates, we had a particularly tough time choosing between two stand-outs. Sophomore Jonathan Lane is a second year Senator who has proven himself an active member of the governing body, having authored or co-authored at least seven pieces of legislation. Jonathan is extremely devoted to making SMU a better campus, and we commend him for his efforts thus far and in the future. This senator also offered the best idea we heard regarding the problem of opacity that plagues the actions of the Student Senate: online blogs kept by student senators to keep their constituents informed on their current legislative concerns. You can see why it is hard not to endorse him. But in the end we decided to side with John Jose, an up-and-coming campus force. John is extremely well spoken (our favorite adage of his was likening an ideal student body officer to a mix between a sycophant and a rebel), and we feel this would suit him especially to an officer position. John is willing to be outspoken and use his nationally ranked debate skills to argue for the students on issues concerning them. As a newcomer to SMU, he brings a fresh perspective and plenty of energy to the oft-wearied Senate. We are therefore confident he has the motivation not seen in others to serve the student body. We are excited to see his vision for SMU realized.

Lulu Seikaly for VP

The staff of *Hilltopics* is proud to endorse Lulu Seikaly, a junior French and political science double major, for Vice President. In contrast to previous years in which many student body officer candidates ran unopposed, this year all of the student body officer elections are hotly contested. While resolute with the decision to endorse Seikaly, the *Hilltopic's* staff would like to congratulate Rachel Simpson, a freshman, on her campaign. While we have chosen to endorse Seikaly over Simpson, we firmly believe in her abilities as a student leader and as a Senate up-and-comer. Of the three candidates running for Vice President, the *Hilltopics* staff has decided to endorse Seikaly because of her vast experience working with the Senate and her keen understanding of the position of Vice-President.

The Vice-President of the Senate is in charge of internal Senate affairs. As current Speaker of the Senate and member of the Senate Executive Committee, Seikaly is in charge of running all of the Senate meetings on Tuesday afternoons. As a result, she is extremely knowledgeable about the rules and procedures of the Senate. From her experiences in other Student organizations such as Mock Trial, Program Council,

and Emerging Leaders, Seikaly has a complete and diverse understanding of student activities on campus.

Such ample experience however is combined with her obvious passion for the position and the work of the Student Senate in general. If elected Vice-President, Seikaly told us she will work to improve the communication gap that currently exists between the Senate and the student body. She hopes to accomplish this by making the Senate more transparent and approachable. In addition, she said she wants to improve upon the training of newly elected Senators so that they can communicate more clearly the issues and interests of their student constituents. Seikaly will mold the Vice-President position into one that makes Senators efficient and responsible for the concerns of the student body. In this way, Seikaly hopes to make a lasting impression.

Katherine Tullos for President

Rumor has it that this year's Student Senate Elections for student body president is going to be a close one. The candidates are all well spoken, well liked, and well qualified. With the current VP (Katherine Tullos) and Secretary (Brooks Powell) running for the position against Dedman II Senator Ronald Lowenfield and Student Issues Committee Vice Chair Morvared (Mora) Namdar; the candidates are all immensely qualified individuals. In spite of the rigorous campaigning, one candidate stands out in a powerful way. Katherine Tullos is exceptional because of her incomparable experience and her reputation for getting things done.

With the unique experience of serving as the Student Body Secretary and the Student Body Vice President consecutively, Katharine seems primed and ready for the position. With this experience she is more than familiar with Student Senate operations and is well aware of the skills necessary to get things done. Along with this she is keenly able to stand as a guide and resource to the other new members of the executive board.

In addition her qualifications comes a reputation for accomplishing the goals of her previous election platforms. She has worked hard and fruitfully to increase the Senate's visibility, and she has made great strides in increasing senator-constituent relationships.

Tullos particularly impressed the *Hilltopic's* staff in her response to our question about her intentions to increase the academic standing and focus of SMU. Tullos stated her interest in reformatting the academic advising process. She referenced Cox's successful advising program and hopes to implement some of their ideas so that we as an institution can better direct our students—particularly freshmen—in their collegiate and academic experiences. Tullos also intends to support organizations that are thought based. These organizations create and foster ideas that increase and support academic interests of students. As a thought based publication these are ideas that we can support, and we encourage you to show your support of Tullos when you vote.

We hope you'll vote for the candidates we've endorsed, but most of all we just hope you'll vote.

Don't forget: Wednesday and Thursday, www.smu.edu/elections

Candidates for Senate and SMC Board introduce themselves to the electorate

Hilltopics invited each Senate candidate to submit a 75 word biography. We've published exactly what they sent us.

Kent Crocker

My name is Kent Crocker and I want to be re-elected as a Dedman II Student Senator, so I can continue to represent the constituents of my school. To give a little bit of background information: I am a current 3rd year Junior, graduated from HP High School, and love to debate. I think I should be re-elected because I have been on Student Senate over the course of this year and know how Senate functions.

Savannah Engel

I am a sophomore from Greenville, MS. I am a member of Kappa Alpha Theta as well as their Social Chair. I am very involved on campus I was a First Year Senator last year, a member of Emerging Leaders, an Emerging Leader mentor, member of LEAD, Students for a Better Society, CRU, and I was on the Environmental Committee. I believe that if elected I will be able to bring more to this campus. I want the student body to become more involved in organizations and SMU. I want them to know what is going on and be aware of events and what Senate is doing as well. I want our student body to be well informed on every issue. I know if elected I will represent the Student Body to the best of my abilities.

Anthony Everett

D. Anthony Everett currently attends Perkins School of Theology. He is a third year MDIV student. Everett is president of the Black Seminarians Association. Everett has served as the Associate Pastor for Minorities for the SMU Wesley Foundation. He is a life member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society and an alumni member of Sigma Beta Delta International Business Honor Society. Everett is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Michael Goodman

My service on Student Senate for six semesters has been an awesome experience! I am a Meadows Senator and the Student Association President designee on Student Center Governing Board. I have also served on: Communications, Academics, Membership, and Research and Recommendations Committees. If elected, I will do research to improve the communication between Senate and the student body. It would be a privilege to continue serving SMU through Student Senate. I'd really appreciate your support!

John Jose

I'm John Jose and I'm running for Dedman II Senator. I'm currently a First-Year Senator and have two majors in Dedman, International Studies and Economics. I am one of the most active members of Senate, involved in two committees and author or co-author of several pieces of legislation, from the Bush Library to streamlining Senate functions. A vote for me is a vote for experience, activism, and maximum representation of declared Dedman majors.

Patrick Kolber

Being involved in a myriad of student organizations I realize that each student at SMU has differing views, needs, and talents. Finding a way to combine the necessities and unique abilities of every organization on campus will better the SMU community as a whole. As your Dedman I senator I will never stop serving each and everyone of your specific needs and as your friend you can be assured I will keep this promise.

James Longhofer

James Longhofer is a political science, economics and

public policy major from Houston. He came to SMU after receiving the Hunt Leadership Scholarship and has been active in many parts of the SMU community. He has worked as a Resident Assistant in Virginia-Snyder, been an officer of multiple student organizations including Habitat for Humanity and Hilltopics, and he served as a senator last year. He is currently studying abroad. His goals for Senate next year are a more open Finance Committee, better meal plan options, and more student involvement in the administration of SMU.

Jonathan Moon

My name is Jonathan Moon. I grew up in Carrollton, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. I am a sophomore here at SMU and a Cinema-Television major, and I'm enjoying every minute of it. I love photography and working with technology. I spend a lot of my time working on campus as a STAR Student and volunteering at my church. I believe that the real point of leadership is service and I can't wait to serve the students of Meadows.

Ryan Pitts

My name is Ryan Pitts, a sophomore majoring in political science. I am committed to being active in student affairs and feel being a member of the Student Senate affords me that opportunity. With your support and vote, I will work on behalf of my fellow students. My focus would be to keep lines of communication open between university administration, senate, and student body. Please cast your vote for Ryan Pitts for Dedman II Senator.

Stephen Reiff

My name is Stephen Reiff and I am running for Dedman I Student Senator. I am a freshman from Portland, Oregon, and I intend to major in business. I am running for Student Senate because I have a passion for our school and would like to contribute my part to help our school strive for excellence and success in all areas. I believe I have the necessary skills and experiences needed to benefit the Senate. I would greatly appreciate your vote. Thank You!

Whitney Stenger

Whitney Stenger, sophomore advertising and CCPA student, hopes to maintain her seat as Meadows Senator after the upcoming elections. Stenger's dedication to the SMU community is evident by her involvement on campus. Last year, Stenger served as the Family Weekend decoration's coordinator for Student Foundation. Currently, besides serving as a Meadows Senator, Stenger remains active in Student Foundation, serves on the Senate Organizations Committee, and promotes Greek unity as the Panhellenic delegate for her sorority. As a University Scholar and honor roll student, Stenger makes sure she balances her academics with her extracurricular activities. Stenger urges her constituents to "Vote 4 Whit," to ensure their voices are heard by Senate.

Kyle Yarberry

It's crucial for each of you to know that I am a committed news-junkie. Given this obsession and my breadth of experience, I am the best candidate to advance our interests on the Student Media Company Board of Directors. The Daily Campus monitors the pulse of SMU, and I will work tirelessly to ensure its continued evolution. Thanks in advance for voting 'KY'.

Make an informed decision: Get info about SBO candidates straight from the Mustang's mouth

Hilltopics invited each Student Body Officer candidate to submit a 200 word statement. We've published exactly what they sent us.

Lamar Dowling for Secretary

Hello my fellow SMU students. My name is Lamar Dowling and I am currently running for Student Body Secretary. Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving Student Senate as the Organizations Committee Chairman. This position has allowed me to lead 41 student organizations through the chartering process, allowing the organizations to become officially sanctioned by SMU and the Student Senate. While being Organizations Chair, I have been able to build close relationships with these and other organizations, which represent countless facets of student life. Throughout my involvement on campus, I have gained the experience, organizational skills, and relational skills in order to properly carry out the duties of Student Body Secretary. As Secretary, I will strive to strengthen the bonds between the SMU student body and our faculty and staff. This relationship is critical if any change is expected to occur on our campus. Also, communication between Student Senate and the entire student body is in dire need of attention. How often do influential pieces of legislation get passed in our chamber, but its effects are not heard of by the student body? This needs to change. I want to increase student awareness so that the student body can make us aware of their concerns and needs. With your help, we WILL make a difference at SMU.

John Jose for Secretary

Next Wednesday and Thursday is your chance to influence what happens in student government at SMU. I'm John Jose, currently a First-Year Senator, I'm running for Student Body Secretary, and I will do what I say I will do. This is because the issues I'm campaigning on impact me as much as they impact all the students. Tuition is increasing by 8%, a ridiculous amount. A .5% of that increase is to pay for the Dedman Center, which is completed, yet the administration has stated that they will not remove it from the tuition increase, now or ever. This is shameful and has to stop. Also, there have been recent thefts and break-ins at off campus areas where students live, yet SMU Police Department takes no responsibility for what happens off campus. SMU PD should stop writing tickets and start doing their job! So, in addition to focusing on specific issues such as these, I will do my best to increase the scope and power of student government. We should be able to call university officials in front of Senate and make them answer frank questions from senators about such issues. Senate should stop begging and start telling!

Jonathan Lane for Secretary

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jonathan Lane, and I am currently a sophomore serving as a Dedman I Senator in the SMU Student Senate.

For the last two years, I have been one of the most active members of the Senate, passing pieces of legislation ranging from expanding streams of communication between Senate and student groups, to helping revitalize a dated Senate Committee structure into something novel and efficient. I've also headed pieces outlining the administration's infringement on Students' Association money and the many shortcomings of the "Real Food on Campus" program.

It's time for more of the same. We need a Student Body Officer who has both experience and vision, someone who understands the value of persistence in the face of criticism,

and we need someone who will REPRESENT YOU, not represent his/her personal interests on behalf of the student body.

And we need someone who will *finally* DO WHAT THEY SAY THEY WILL DO.

I have a number of initiatives I'd like to address as a student body officer, one of which includes "Senate Blogs," in which each senator updates weekly what they are doing to make SMU a better place, holding them more accountable and allowing more transparency for the student body.

Lastly, I want to start a dialogue. I want to hear what you have to say. This isn't about who wins or loses, this is about who is going to represent the issues that are most important to you.

I'd appreciate your vote on February 21 & 22, and just remember, there's a lot to gain when you vote for J. LANE.

Bethany Peters for VP

SMU has incredible leaders that make up for the so called "student apathy" discussed in Monday's Hilltopics. You simply can't make people care. This isn't to say that students at SMU don't care. There are just certain people who feel more inclined to make changes. The most important thing is that changes are being made on this campus. This year the Student Senate amended the by-laws making the committees' structures more effective. Also, Ben Manthey and the Scholarship committee revived the Student Scholarship Endowment this year by tripling the largest scholarship to \$18,000. These are just two of many incredible changes that the Student Senate has made this year. There will always be ignorant students on every campus, but isn't that why we have great leaders like those on the Student Senate? The leaders on Senate and other organizations on campus make up for those who are less involved.

Effective change is the only way to improve the students' experience at SMU. As a current Meadows Senator and candidate for Student Body Vice President, I am confident that I will be hard working, persistent, passionate, and willing to make positive changes on this campus. I have recently served on the Research and Recommendations committee and the Communications Committee within Senate. I have already thought of improving issues outside of Senate such as academic advising. I want to work with our new Provost, Paul Ludden, to create a more efficient feedback process to better academic advising. If elected, I will do whatever it takes to improve and promote these objectives as well as many others. You may not be the one who makes the changes. However, you can at least choose your leaders—Vote Bethany Peters.

Lulu Seikaly for VP

My name is Lulu Seikaly and I would be privileged to serve as your Student Body Vice President. I am a junior political science and French double major. Since I set foot on SMU's campus, I was involved in leadership activities. I was one of fifty first years chosen to participate in the Emerging Leaders program. The following year, I was asked to co-chair the program. I have also been highly involved with SMU's Program Council. My freshman and sophomore year, I was honored to serve as the Sing Song Chair, and this year I am the Vice President of Social Programming for Program Council. At the end

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of last year, I was elected as a Dedman II Senator and at the first meeting; I was nominated by my peers to serve as the Speaker of the Senate. I am the only Vice Presidential candidate who currently sits on the Senate Executive committee. My communication skills are my strongest characteristic. If elected Vice President, I will use my communication skills to further strengthen ties between the student body, student senate, and the administration. I feel that there are a lot of ideas and things students want implemented to make their years at SMU enjoyable and memorable, but the administration is not aware of these desires. Being involved in SMU Student Senate, I feel that I can actually make a difference. I feel that with my organizational skills, my approachable personality, and my communication skills, I can be a great Vice President! Let's make history. Vote Lulu for VP! It's your destiny!

Rachel Simpson for VP

My name is Rachel Simpson and I'm running for Student Body Vice President. I'm currently a first-year senator and a member of the Senate Communications Committee. As a present senator I have a lot of experience in Senate procedures and, more importantly, I know what improvements must be made. Senate's primary goal is to serve the student body. In our recent Pound the Pavement survey, only 20% of students polled knew how to get their issues heard. There are two factors that contribute to such a low number and compromise Senate's ability to effectively serve the student body. These are a lack of communication between Senate and the student body and a deficiency in the effectiveness of Senate in dealing with the administration. A lot of the battles we fight now in Senate include writing legislation "encouraging" the administration to consider an issue or "urging" that the administration review its policies. These rarely get past the idea stage and into practice. I think that in conjunction with making Senate more accessible to the student body, increasing Senate's effectiveness with the administration will allow us to be able to more successfully address student concerns. Some particular ideas I have for next year include installing more bulletin boards on campus, putting posters in residence halls with important Senate contacts, and increased and more accessible student polls. If elected I promise that you will know what we are doing and we will be doing what you want. The solution is still simple: vote Simpson for Student Body Vice President.

Ronald Lowenfield for President

Vote Lowenfield for a High Yield. It might just be one of the best investments you ever make. My name is Ronald (or Ronnie-you pick) Lowenfield and I want to be your Student Body President. I have been involved in various organizations throughout my time here at SMU including Student Senate as a Dedman II Senator, the Student Senate Finance Committee, the IFC Judicial Board, as a SF Student Ambassador, a proud Greek member, and a member of the Constitutional Convention (that formed the changes that will also be on the

ballot next week), as well as others. I would be honored to be able to finish my time here directly representing you, the students, my constituents. If elected, I am going to fight for you. First, I am going to do all in my power to end unreasonable increases in tuition. Second, I will work diligently with the administration to ensure that you are satisfied with the quality of student life. Third, the Student Senate does not have an unlimited supply of money, and the administration needs to step up financially for its programs and commitments. Visit my Facebook group for details - and Seal the Deal with Lowenfield.

Mora Namdar for President

My name is Mora Namdar and I am a junior here @ SMU. I have been at SMU since 7th grade (I started attended classes here then as part of the TAG-Talented and Gifted Program) and have loved the University since then. From a young age I have always been interested in positive change and being a leader. I am a triple major here at SMU with Political Science, International Studies and Philosophy. I am also a double minor in Art and

the newly created human rights. As a student body senator I was one of the most active and vocal members of the Senate. I wrote legislation that passed which urged the administration to institute Human Rights as a Degree Major Program, which would make SMU the first University in the Nation to have a distinct human rights degree program (University of Dayton has a subsection program under international studies). Also, I wrote a resolution with Jonathan Lane urging the University to reconsider its relationship with Aramark, the company responsible for the Real Food On Campus program. Their price gauging of students is ridiculous and needs to be addressed. Along with that, I feel the constant rise in tuition is excessively increasing steadily and needs to be addressed as well. Also, I have served as Vice Chair of Student Issues Committee and as such have worked on the giddy-up situation, park and pony, RFOC, and the pound the pavement survey which actually actively reached out to students on the campus to get their opinions. As well as being a student body senator, and vice chair of student issues committee, I am also President of Amnesty International, and Chair of Emerging Leaders. I also intern for US Congresswoman Eddie B. Johnson and am active in the Dallas community. I also am a member of the Greek community as a member of Alpha Chi Omega. I feel that it is important to unify the campus and promote active cooperation. Whether that be with Greek and Non-Greek organizations, multicultural groups, academic departments, or with student groups. As Student Body President, I will do my best to get across the messages that the STUDENTS of SMU want to get across and to make SMU an even better institution than it already is. As the candidate with the most high level leadership experience, I know what it takes to not only be a part of an organization or group but to lead it effectively by being open to all different points of view and opinions.



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Brooks Powell for President

My name is Brooks Powell and I want to be your next Student Body President. My three years in Senate—twice as a Senator, as Speaker and now Student Body Secretary—have shown me what matters most to students. First, students deserve to feel safe in the environment in which they live and study. I will work with Campus Planning and the city of University Park to improve lighting in the dangerously dark areas on campus and address several treacherous pedestrian crossings. Also, the University must make health services a priority for its students and provide the necessary treatment options so that students are not forced off campus for their medical care. Additionally, financial services must explain why students' financial aid is in such a state of uncertainty. Many students are offered attractive scholarship packages to attend SMU, but those often disappear after enrollment for upper-class semesters. Students need to know that the bill of goods they are sold is solid from start to finish. This is a crucial time for SMU and we need the right leadership. I have the experience and drive to take SMU to the next level. Vote Brooks Powell for Student Body President.

Katherine Tullos for President

My name is Katherine Tullos and I am running for Student Body President. It has been my honor to serve you as Student Body Vice President, Student Body Secretary, and Organizations Chair and I would love the opportunity to continue to represent all SMU students' interests.

As Vice-President, I have initiated Senator Meet and Greets with each school, strengthened Senator Training and the Affiliate Senator Program, and started the Senate newsletter.

This year, Student Senate has focused internally as an organization. As President, I would like to focus on external issues. We, the students, are the foundation of our university and Student Senate should be addressing your issues.

For crucial concerns on campus, I would like to hold a time for students, administrators, faculty and staff to have an open dialogue to best target the needs of our university. As President, I will address the issue of campus safety with the Giddy-Up Program as well as inadequate academic advising. To better support our student organizations, we also need to streamline our budgeting process.

Together as a Senate and a Student Body, we can create positive change for our campus. I have three years experience with Student Senate and will be able to best represent your interests. Vote KT for S.B.P!

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Former environment chair speaks out

by Christine Dougherty

My experience in the Student Senate has had its ups and downs. The upsides have been associating with dedicated and driven fellow students every week, identification as a member of our student government, a chance to discuss the happenings at our university, and opportunities to meet the administrators who make major decisions on our behalf. As Chair of the now-defunct Student Senate Environment Committee, I've met with an environmentally-minded architect, the Director of Energy Management, the head of the Environmental Science department, the Custodial Manager, and the Vice President for Business and Finance of SMU...I would probably not have gotten such an opportunity if it were not for my position in the Senate. For almost a year now, I've also had the privilege of running various recycling programs all over campus, which is, I think, a lot of responsibility. I glow with pride whenever I pass by the Theology school's dumpster, where there are always bags of paper waiting to be picked up for recycling, and every time I open the white mailbox in the Student Activities Center to find a couple of used cell phones that will be dismantled and safely recycled. I also get to announce progress and updates to the assembled Senate every Tuesday afternoon. It's pretty cool.

The downsides are dealing with student apathy—no matter how hard we work to ensure that an event or an opportunity will be accessible, convenient, and enjoyable for our classmates, we often face failure because too many people simply don't feel like coming, and that's very frustrating—the pressure to perform like a professional (we're in powerful positions to get matters done, but at the same time many of us are juggling five or six classes and involvement in two or three other organizations), complaints that we don't do enough (!), and, of course, the politics. More recently, you'll recall, my very own pride and joy, the Environment Committee, which has made more progress than anyone else in the Senate in the past three years, was deemed "inefficient" the way it was and the rest of the governing body decided to demote it into a mere category of the functions of the new Senate Student Concerns committee. WTF? Yes, it's been very aggravating for me this year.

Almost equally infuriating is the I-don't-give-a-rat's-hindquarters attitude that far too many people have on this campus toward environmental progress. Do you have any idea how many times I've had to reach with my bare hands into a recycling bin to pull out a paper plate covered in food, just so that the bin wouldn't be considered too contaminated for recycling? We've made it so easy for people to recycle by putting recycling bins right next to garbage cans, and yet they still find a way to be too lazy to put food or biological wastes (like Kleenex or diapers) in the trash and an empty plastic bottle into the bin instead of vice versa! People, this is a freaking university. Learn to read the labels on a recycling bin, not just the labels on the other girl's jeans!

Overall, my year of serving in Senate has been very rough and yet beneficial. I encourage everyone to take the ongoing Senate elections very seriously, to vote wisely, and to participate in Senate as much as possible. Those of us who are in the organization really do want to hear from you, so please exercise your rights as a citizen: vote! Make a difference!

Christine Dougherty is a senior history major.