

Student Senate Presidential Candidates

Brandon Large Angela Crawford



Sophomore Party: Student Coalition for Change
Currently: Not on Senate
Experience: Elected to incoming senator position September 2004, became senior senator in April 2005. Served as student affairs chairman until resigning from Senate in December 2005. (Insufficient GPA)
Organizations: Student adviser in Dobson Hall, Pi Kappa Phi social

fraternity, second vice president of the Interfraternity Council, University conduct hearing board.

Why he's running: Believes the status quo has made the University stagnant. Large's platform includes establishing a wet zone around Stokes Stadium during football games that would allow fans to drink during games to increase attendance and encourage responsible drinking.

Board of Governors' Vote: "Absolutely. In business terms, we are the clients, and the clients should have a say in what's going on. We pay for 50 percent of Truman's budget. We know how to make decisions."

United!: Opposes joining on grounds that the organization comes too soon after the collapse of the Student Association of Missouri, and its organizational structure still is uncertain.

For more information, visit www.trumanindex.com



Junior Party: Bulldog Party
Currently: Senior senator and academic affairs chairwoman
Experience: Elected senator-at-large in September 2004, and senior senator in April 2005. Appointed academic affairs chairwoman April 2005.
Organizations: Alpha Sigma Gamma, co-chairwoman of the academic advising committee, student representative to Undergraduate Council.

Why she's running: "I've been exposed to some really strong leaders since being at Truman, and I've seen what they've accomplished for the students and this University. You need student leadership who is willing to and wants to listen to what students want to say."

Board of Governors' Vote: Voted in favor of both Senate resolutions supporting the concept. "The student selected has gone through a rigorous application and interview process and are certainly mature and intelligent enough to handle the position. Students should have a stronger say than they already do."

United!: Supports provisional membership but thinks that right now is not the right time to accept full membership. She also is concerned that United!'s current structure favors larger schools.

Reporting by Kyle Hill, Design by Lindsay Koski/Index

Two vie for presidency

Kyle Hill
Staff Reporter

Starting at 8 a.m. Tuesday, students can log on to vote.truman.edu to elect their peers to Student Senate.

Nineteen students on the online ballot are vying for 12 senator-at-large positions, three senior senator spots and president of the student association.

Senate veterans junior Angela Crawford and sophomore Brandon Large lead their party slates, the Bulldog Party and the new Student Coalition for Change, respectively.

The two will debate at 8 tonight in Violette Hall 1000.

Faculty adviser Scott Alberts, assistant professor of mathematics, said the debate will show how each candidate thinks under pressure.

"That's the kind of skill that you want in a president," Alberts said. "It also gives the candidate a chance to talk about their plans."

Both Crawford and Large ran unopposed for senior senator last year with the backing of the Bulldog Party. Large said he left the Bulldog Party after Coalition founders, seniors Stephen Huss and Tim Gerhart and junior Josh Kappel, asked him to run on their slate.

"The status quo of Truman's campus is pretty stagnant," Large said. "It's time to push forward progressive ideas, to go for the guns."

Crawford, who serves as academic affairs chairwoman on Senate, said she wants to focus on several academic issues, including a more flexible curriculum.

"We need a flexible curriculum to allow for students to study abroad and intern and still graduate in four years," Crawford said. "I would like to see more emphasis on the four powerful pedagogies and the liberal arts classes so students can explore more classes instead of being tied down from when they enroll to when they graduate."

Large, who resigned from Senate during winter break because he did not meet the minimum GPA required of voting senators, said he serves on the first-year experience task force that looks at improving the effectiveness of Truman Week and other programs geared toward first-year students.

"We firmly look upon the experience and what things we can change, improve and better liberally educate a student," Large said.

Large said he would like to look into establishing a wet zone to allow drinking at Stokes Stadium during football games. He said he believes the University treats alcohol as a taboo subject and instituting a wet zone would help to encourage respon-

sible drinking.

"Alcohol is a part of our lives," Large said. "Students have told me that they would love going to the game and tailgating if we allowed alcohol. Plus, we could bring in sponsors for a new stadium or better facilities elsewhere."

Large said he also wants to increase fiscal responsibility in Senate, the Funds Allotment Council and the Student Activities Board.

"The fee needs to go only toward students," Large said. "The organizational stuff they need to survive, that indirectly affects students, that's OK, but not food for SAB selections, not gavels for student body presidents."

Large said that if elected, he would not accept a gavel if money generated from Senate's \$2 per semester fee paid for it. Earlier this year, Senate rejected an amendment that would have used money from the agency account to pay for the ceremonial gavels.

Crawford said she wants to continue improving academic advising. She serves as a co-chair on an advising committee.

"[Our committee has] some big ideas for how to improve it so that students do have a mentoring relationship instead of just someone who students get a RAC code from," Crawford said.

She said she also wants to revise the University's retake policy so when a student retakes a course, the better grade instead of the average appears on his or her transcript.

"They've obviously learned the material, so they should get the grade," she said.

Crawford said she wants Senate to work more with the Office of Residence Life.

"Anything about ResLife seems to scare us away," Crawford said. "We have a potential of reaching many students. If we can get someone to work with ResLife, we can make a lot of improvements there."

Both candidates said they would be willing to work in each other's administration.

Crawford said she was disappointed Large did not continue to serve as an associate senator this semester. She said she plans to remain with Senate if Large wins.

"I am currently serving on several committees that go through Senate that will last into next year," she said. "No matter what, I will be committed to serving in them."

Large said Senate would not be complete without Crawford and that if Crawford wins, he still would plan to return.

"I have spent my time off Senate to get a new perspective, and I would like to use that perspective on Senate, whether as student body president or under another," Large said.

BALLOT | Students urge University to join United!, Senate to place it on ballot

Continued from Page 1

the resolution by moving the referendum question, which Senate approved.

Kappel said provisional membership will allow Truman students to attend the inaugural congress in August at a site to be determined but not require the University to enact the \$2 per student per semester fee next fall.

"We will have a direct say in the organization before we commit our money toward this organization," Kappel said.

Senate's task force will present its recommendations prior to the fall elections. If full membership is recommended, students will be asked to vote on a fee increase that would result in full membership.

Only students at Truman and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where United! co-founders Adam Jung and Jared Wight attend school, will vote on membership this month, according to United!'s Web site.

Senate rejected Kappel's resolution calling for the repeal of the University's

parental notification policy when dealing with substance abuse violations by a 4-8-3 vote. Discussion on the resolution was rendered moot when ethics justice sophomore Brett Pierson announced that Kappel had collected 320 signatures to place the issue on the ballot.

Attention turned to the proper wording of the question, as senators debated what the question should represent.

"If [Dean of Student Affairs] Lou Ann Gilchrist isn't going to listen to the vote, I don't care," Kirtland said. "They're paid to pay attention to FERPA. The questions we should be discussing is, 'Do they have our best interest in mind?'"

Kappel said FERPA, the Family Education Right to Privacy Act, allows universities to release information regarding drug and alcohol offenses.

"I want to make sure there's no bias in this procedure," Kappel said. "We want to get rid of the parental notification policy unless their life is in danger."

The resolution would have been forwarded to Gilchrist if students passed the question.

After Senate defeated the resolution, Kirtland submitted the ballot wording, which Senate approved.

Students also will vote on three amendments to Senate's constitution, passed at the April 2 meeting.

The first proposed amendment asks students to authorize the president's executive committee to appoint a president pro tempore in the event the president is absent for an extended period. Kirtland missed several meetings in February because of an unexplained illness.

Two proposals to amend clauses concerning petitions stem from Kappel's vetoed resolution in December 2005. Under the current wording of the constitution, students could not petition for reconsideration of the resolution because Senate sustained Kirtland's veto.

All five ballot measures require a simple majority to pass.

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