UAP candidates conduct informal news conference

From left to right: George Piccagli, Kim Thurston, and Dick Cunningham, candidates for UAP, attend Board of Directors of The Tech.

By Gerry Banner

The five candidates for Undergraduate Association President met with the Tech's Board of Directors at an informal press conference Tuesday in the Student Center. Each candidate presented a short five minute statement to the Board, and a question and answer period followed.

In his opening statement, Dick Cunningham 79, chose to concentrate on the Inner Belt crisis. He emphasized his experience in political activities outside MIT and mentioned that he is trying to meet with Mass. Governor Volpe and other state officials in MIT's cause.

Cunningham has spoken on different issues at each of his other public appearances, including the Urban Challenge Conference and complicity committees.

Representative inadequate

Thurston continued his campaign of emphasizing the inadequacy of the present representation of students by Inscomm. He claimed that Inscomm members and subcommittees do not consult the students they represent, and suggested that Inscomm agendas should be sent out as well as minutes.

Nygreen emphasized what he termed a "conservative outlook" toward the problems of student parking, compulsory commons, and dormitory refurnishing by suggesting the formation of ad-hoc fact finding committees in each of these areas. He stated that SCEP should retain its autonomy, but eliminate some of its extraneous structures. Nygreen took issue with the Public Relations Committee for not doing anything and stressed the importance of booklets like "This is MIT."

Activity experience

March cited his experience as APO President and on the Student Committee as helpful to a UAP. He would try to formulate better interactivity relationships in the Student Center and use feedback to adapt more use of the new building. A more intensive study of the MIT image by a special subcommittee is another of March's proposals.

Piccagli's statement also covered most of the issues he's been pushing throughout the campaign such as the student parking problem. He claimed that the Student Center has not lived up to expectations, and he wants to remove the Student Center Committee Chairmen from the Executive Council of Inscomm. Piccagli also commented that SCEP should do more to evaluate the major curriculum changes of last year.

Styles of leadership

During the question period, the candidates were asked to comment on the style of leadership needed for the UAP. The question was aimed particularly at Piccagli, who responded that he could not abstract a "style of leadership," but he felt confident that he could adapt his capacities to the job of UAP.

March felt that the UAP should both know what the other members of the Executive Committee are thinking and also be able to keep all the members interested in projects.

Nygreen emphasized the firm, yet likeable personality needed, and also the ability to push one's friends into action.

Thurston commented that the UAP should both exert personal influence and also lead by example. Cunningham chose to define leadership as putting recommendations into action. He felt the UAP does not need the characteristics of leadership of somebody like the late President Kennedy.

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