Libby must follow students' desires

The approval of the proposed Undergraduate Association constitutional amendments should be interpreted as the acquiescence of the past performance of student government. However, the enactment of these amendments will not correct the usefulness and effectiveness of the already impotent Undergraduate Association.

There are several questions concerning the appearance of the constitutional referendum on the Undergraduate Association spring ballot. The referendum was placed on the ballot without General Assembly approval or petition approval of the student body. The students' first chance to read the full text of the referendum was on the UA Election Supplement in The Tech, which appeared one day before the election. There was no time for meaningful discussion of the effects of the referendums.

The primary problem with the current form of the Undergraduate Association is that some government organizations, like the Student Center Committee, are not accountable to the groups they serve. Others, the General Assembly for example, have obligations only to themselves.

Creation of a new "steering committee" of undergraduate representatives to institute committees creates a body with no defined duties or responsibilities. Replacing the General Assembly with a UA council does not address the problem of its lack of responsibilities. Creating the Undergraduate Association/Graduate Student Council Joint Committees, which would have representatives from the Graduate Student council and the proposed UA Council, creates a body with no obligations to its constituents.

Newly elected UA President David Libby should recognize that his constituency clearly desires. He should develop a workable definition of the structure and relationship between undergraduate and graduate activities. Libby should use his past experience in student government to mediate among the various branches of student government.

He should develop a workable definition of the structure and role of the student government organizations, including the changes that his constituency clearly desires.