Katz/Lin win UAP/VP; activities fee fails

By Michael Goejier
The student body Thursday voted down the activities fee referendum in Wednesday's Undergraduate Association elections. Forty-seven percent of 1756 votes cast were against the fee, with 42 percent for it. The fee referendum was to have created a line-item on students' term bills to be appropriated directly to student activities through the UA financial board — the fee would have raised $515,000 for student activities.

Incumbent UA president Manuel Rodriguez '89 was worried yesterday that the defeat of the referendum might signal the wrong message to the administration, saying it will be difficult to obtain increased allocations from the administration for student activities. But Rodriguez did not interpret the failure of the referendum as an indication that students were against activities groups.

Rodriguez said the goals of funding the activities — which presently request money only when the activities exceed their allocation's budget — still remain, Rodriguez said, and students will have to continue to deal with it until it is solved.

The fees paid by the student body to the UA provided the referendum, because it brought the funding issue out of the student body's background. But he would have preferred to see the fees approved by a narrow margin. Rodriguez said it was clear, however, that the UA needed to work on better communications with the student body and said that he and Dean S. Ebesu '89, chairman of the UA financial board, had already begun discussing possible changes in UA Board, including inserting more members at large and reducing the number of members chosen by the student governing board.

Moreover, the UA will continue to deal with the finances for student activities, Rodriguez said.

Class officers elected

Many of the sophomore and junior class officers elected Wednesday were unopposed, and only the top offices in the freshman and senior classes received considerable attention. Overall turnout this year was higher than in the last several elections, though not as robust. Among those who ran unopposed, the freshmen had the highest percentage of voters among the classes, with 44 percent of Class of '90 voting; only 36 percent of the seniors turned out, according to statistics released by UA elections co-ordinator Louise Contreas '89.

In races among the freshmen, sophomore, and junior class officers elected Wednesday, there were 1737 votes cast, and only the top offices in the freshmen and senior classes received considerable attention.

Last year's turnout was 36 percent. UA suffers from negative image

The major task confronting Katz and Lin is dealing with the UA's negative image among students, Katz said. The election indicated that students do not have much respect for the UA, he said. Gwynn and Wickham ran a campaign based on money — opposing the Harvard Cooperative Society, ARA, and the student activity fee because they believe they take excessive money from students. Gwynn also called the UA "a masterburbating organization" — interested only in serving itself — and pledged to "raise some hell" if elected. He said he and Wickham would broaden the UA base.

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