Candidate Seth Mulligan

“I’m a bit uncomfortable because the undergrads I’m wearing hops to be my grandmother’s,” Seth Mulligan prefaced. “But above all, I’m excited to be up here.”

The second year philosophy and political science major expressed his interest and abilities to be Student Senate President. Mulligan is currently involved as a Resident Assistant in Canon Hall, a staff writer for Kanakadea Hall, a member of Chamber Singers. During his freshman year, Mulligan was treasurer for King Alfred’s Jesters. Mulligan is the current Student Senate Treasurer.

Mulligan first presented what the presidential position held in terms of a voice for the student body. “It is not my platform,” Mulligan admitted. “The presidential position is a reactionary position.” Mulligan further explained this by letting it be known that most ideas and policies are generated on the floor of Senate.

The presence of students is always very important for Senate. Mulligan said he would like to see a student concerns forum “at any old time with Senate executives” to speak freely and report floor findings.

As President, Mulligan said he would work harder and closer as a liaison between students and administration. Utilizing the Senate Executive budget, Mulligan said he would like to see Senate fundraisers such as a Gala Ball-type event. Mulligan would like to expand the powers of the many committees. The Election Committee is one such group Mulligan would like to see grow this group more empowered.

Working with the Senate Finance Chair, Mulligan suggested producing a five to seven minute video representing the hearings.

Mulligan said he hopes to preside over meetings in an “efficient, concise, light-hearted” manner. Senate, after all, should reflect the attitude of the entire student body.

Increasing voting acts and perhaps even a $2 coupon off of Student Activities Board large act tickets to Senate card-holding students could be a means of reward. Mulligan also hopes to secure a 24-hour study room for students. He suggested that the first floor of Ade be the site. “Here’s another keen idea, juice machines!” Mulligan added.

Mulligan said he would like to participate in as many campus events as possible, whether it be meetings, dances, performances or any other event as a personal representative for the Student Senate.

Mulligan said he felt the “cabinet structure is a way of address- ing student concerns ... but it is not the best way.” Mulligan emphasized that the system now is very good and that “the Cabinet in theory could work, but not now.”

As President, Mulligan knows to abide by the constitution and contract of Senate. Mulligan promises to listen to and be cooperative with fellow students, all while remaining impartial and objective. “My obligation is personal,” Mulligan said.

When asked about his stand on underage drinking Mulligan clearly indicated his disgust with it. “Listen to me, I’m stammering! I don’t want to receive FYE credit for this stuff.” Mulligan projected. “I want to make it desirable and fun.”

Mulligan made it clear he is the clear representation of the student body. It is admirable that Boyle wants to increase student interest in Senate, but unlike representatives in national politics, the Student Senate President here at AU needs to be a listener — one who takes the ideas and moves on them.

Boyle cannot move on certain issues unless the student body wants to put their resources there. Mulligan is also realistic. His claim that there is no point in getting students involved in Student Senate rings true.

Mulligan combines the positive traits of humor, sophistica- tion, integrity, poise and genuine concern for the student body.

If he feel he would do an admirable job if elected Student Senate President.

Patrick Boyle

Boyle, a junior econom major, outlined four main objectives he said he would like to see accomplished during his presidency if he were to be elected. The first point he presented was that of parking lot security. He noted that complaints had been received from many stu- dents, especially women, regarding safety and vandalism in the Ade and Stull observatory parking lots.

He proposed that security cameras be installed in these areas.

An all-night study area was Boyle’s second objective. Students currently have no public place on campus to study late into the night, he said.

He stated that such an idea needed to be addressed.

Boyle’s final two propositions centered on the way Student Senate funds are currently struc- tured.

He spoke of adding a steering committee to the existing Senate committees to “take the pulse of the campus and Senate.” Boyle said he wanted to direct student concerns to the most appropriate place.

The President needs to know the inner workings of Senate, namely, the executive board. It makes for a more smooth transition.

Aside from knowing the operations of Senate from within, Mulligan knows and speaks from the point of view of student organizations. He seems to know what those organizations are, who are, all the life of Senate, and need.

Mulligan also seems to know a lot of people. We should never underestimate the importance of a President who has connections across the campus.

He was able to joke on stage. We feel it is important to be able to relax an audience with properly timed humor.

Clearly, Mulligan is willing to set aside and dedicate his time to the student body.

He has promised to free up his schedule in order to make himself available to students and to do a good job as President.

He has formulated an extensive list of ideas and goals that he would like to accomplish as President.

He has promised to be personally involved with Senate.

All these things help to benefit the student body.

Although he is commendable in producing so many goals to benefit the students, we are concerned that it may be too much. His promise may be hard to keep.

Could the list be too long? If elected, we wish him luck in pursuing his goals.

Mulligan seemed very firm in his beliefs, which we feel is a positive attribute. His integrity will help him to succeed as a strong President.

When asked on stage, we have sometimes found Mulligan rather unapproachable outside Nevinna Theatre. It is imperative for the represent- ative of the student body to be open to everyone, not just to his friends.

Patrick Boyle, the other can- didate for Senate President, has some very clear goals, which Mulligan should keep in mind if elected.

We hope that, whichever candidate is elected, he will use the positive ideas from his opponent.

It is important to keep the entire student body in mind when developing a platform, which Mulligan has done.
Christopher Stawiarz
Sophomore Chris Stawiarz is an English/philosophy double-major. In his presentation to students at “Meet the Candidates Night,” Stawiarz said he would like to get the viewpoints of more students to the Senate floor.

“Every single student’s input is valuable,” he said, adding, “Senate is for everyone.”

Stawiarz is a member of the Student Senate Finance Committee and has been involved with many activities. He is involved in college board and is currently pledging Sigma Alpha Mu.

His freshman year, he acted in a number of productions staged by the division of performing arts. He listed one of his concerns as looking into the safety of Brick’s fire escapes.

Stawiarz also suggested implementing a way for art students to continue work on their projects well into the night, noting that it would be beneficial for students and that he cares for their overall needs and safety.

For example, he wants to fix the Brick’s fire escapes. “We feel fire safety is a large concern at AU.” We also think it is positive that he wants to prevent students from losing financial aid if they move off campus.

Right now, according to Stawiarz, projected figures indicate that a current junior or senior will lose $500 for relocating to off-campus housing; a current sophomore would lose $800, and a current freshman would lose $200.

Stawiarz was honest about his goals and what he feels he can accomplish as Vice President. Honesty is an important trait in student government.

Rachael Downey
Rachael Downey, a sophomore political science major, would like to address the student body and to increase diversity awareness activities. She also suggested events such as a multi-cultural week similar to previous spirit weeks.

Downey said the opinion of the student body is what really matters for the Vice President of Senate.

Some of the activities Downey has been involved with include Alpha Lambda Delta, Sexual Assault Victims’ Advocacy Program and Delta Zeta sorority.

Downey has also been the chairperson of the Senate Spirit Committee and has been a member of the Elections and Constitutional committees.

Downey is currently applying for the position of Residence Assistant. She said that if she were to be both an RA and Senate Vice President, she would focus on the RA and Vice President positions and Delta Zeta sorority.

When asked why she had not attended Village Board meetings in her role as a village liaison, Downey said extinguishing academic circumstances had kept her from the meeting.

Downey said she would feel comfortable working with either of the presidential candidates.