

Results close for some candidates

Heath Urie and Cameron Mathews, *UNC Mirror*, April 08, 2005

The nine newest members of the Student Representative Council have been chosen, after the results of the 2005 SRC elections were announced Thursday to a crowd of captivated students and administrators.

While four of the candidates ran unopposed, including Wesley Song for president, Ryan Gentry for student affairs, Chris Garcia for finance and Chris White for diverse relations, the remaining five positions ended with photo finishes.

Brian Chambliss was elected for vice president for university relations with 38.47 percent of the vote, just more than seven percent over close competitor Matthew Wieland.

Kelly Rose Olson was elected for vice president for legislative affairs with 27.95 percent of the vote, beating out her four competitors in the largest race this year.

Joe Liefer took the academic affairs seat with 33.88 percent of the vote, more than 13 percentage points more than his closest competitor in a group of four candidates.

Kacie Morgan beat current council member Donald Hoye III by just 1.77 percent to give her the chair for vice president to the Board of Trustees.

Nathan Montgomery took the vice president for student organizations seat with 37.82 percent of the vote, beating out Yasmin Abdelsalam, who gathered 35.09 percent.

Election Commissioner Lindsay Fong read the results in front of a crowd of about 65 at the UH Ballrooms. She said a record number of students came out to vote this year, 3,166, which is 762 more voters than last year. Last year, only 120 more students voted than the previous year.

"I'm very glad that the number of voters increased," she said. "And I'm glad that the candidates were really courteous this year."

She said in the past there has been "a lot of viciousness," and she didn't see any of that this year.

The only hitch this year, according to Font, was with two students whose electronic Webster ballots had to be reset. She said those issues did not affect the outcome of the election.

Song, who will lead the council next year, said revamping the SR bylaws was among his future goals for the council.

"I am going to work on the bylaws in-depth because they need a little tinkering," he said. "I want to serve the students and really give them what they want. They need to really know who SR is and what they stand for."

Olson said she was anxious to get started with the role on the council.

"I plan to attack next semester by just being active and get an early start," she said.

Lifer said the makeup of next year's council will be positive.

"We have a very positive council and it is up to us now to continue that path," he said. "(SR) set up a great election with no hostility and with no problems between candidates."

The newly elected council members will begin their term in office in the fall.