

Stampede the Polls 2008

President explains role of SG leaders to students



By Garin Flowers
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Voting is a right—a right every student should put into action this Feb. 26 and 27.

Many students aren't aware of exactly what SG does, and I want to explain it to help you make an educated decision.

We advocate for students to the administration, Florida Student Association, Board of Governors and state legislature.

We are also given the power to allocate funds of over \$10.3 million to student organizations and other programs on campus.

It is also important to see which candidates have the students' best interests in mind.

As the student leaders of this large university, we are a part of the decision making process that often deals with students' money and academic integrity.

For this reason, you need to choose leaders who understand these

processes thoroughly.

Every time the administration proposes a fee increase specific to USE, SG leaders are included in the discussion.

We need to determine whether the proposal is necessary to the benefit of our institution.

Granted, there are times when fund increases are necessary, but there must be a probable cause, and it is up to the SG leaders to research and evaluate the proposed change.

To make USF better, I encourage you all to make your voice heard.

The more students who vote, the more accountable SG leaders can be held, and the more support they will have when they lobby the administration and legislature.

When I was campaigning last year some students told me they didn't care about voting.

"I know that you have had some issue with this university at some point in time," I told them.

"SG is here to address ALL of these issues on your behalf!"

Remember that, and remember to vote on February 26 and 27. www.sg.usf.edu/vote.

Vote February 26 & 27 @ www.sg.usf.edu/vote
Polls open 9am 2/26 and close at 7pm 2/27



Students should consider economic outlook when electing new leaders



By Faran Abbasi
STUDENT BODY VICE PRESIDENT

The economic outlook for the higher education system in Florida is an issue we in SG have been researching on a daily basis.

My staff members have traveled to Tallahassee to voice the concerns students have about the government's higher education policies. We will continue to

lobby for the best interests of students, academically and financially, until the end of our term in office in May.

In the next two days we need to elect new SG leaders who will carry on this battle to build the integrity of our university.

As students, the legislature often ignores us due to low turnout in local, state, and national elections. We must exercise our power in numbers through the process of voting.

When students go out into their communities and vote en masse, we will receive the respect we deserve. We must not sit idly by while our schools slide into mediocrity.

We have the power and we can make the change but we must take ourselves seriously before we can expect the same from anyone else. Until that day, we will continue to live the lives that others feel are best for us. We cannot let others dictate our lives for us.

Now is the time to take control of our futures. I do not believe that we should "vote or die", we should "vote to live"...to live the life we want, to receive the education we deserve, to command the respect we are due!

Power concedes nothing without demand.