

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
118 years
of editorial freedom

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Students deserve to have results

It is undeniable that this year's elections have been a circus, but I have good news: It is almost over.

Tomorrow, you have the chance to decide who will lead us out from under the big tent and start working on the real issues students face. All you have to do is vote.

We come to UNC to excel in academics, meet new friends and explore the world.

We may come from different places, have different backgrounds and pursue different dreams, but we are all united by one purpose: We want to improve ourselves and improve the world around us.

We are movers and shakers, and we are not content to watch from the sidelines. We demand excellence of ourselves and others. Why should we settle for anything less when it comes to our student government?

You have an opportunity to set a higher standard for leadership and demand results.

If this election season has taught us anything, it is that there is a lot of work to be done and it is time we bring a sensible approach to student government: an approach that is student-focused and results-driven.

This is the philosophy I have used successfully to organize and inspire thousands of students to action, most notably against the \$13 million South Road Bridge. And I want to continue to do this as your student body president.

It's time we had a student body president that produced results you could see.

For too long, we have settled for quantity over quality, promises over results and talk over substance.

I have seen the problems we face, but I believe in our ability to come together and make a difference. That's the Carolina Way.

Student government is more than an institution, it is a network of connections, relationships and untapped opportunities across campus that can be leveraged to better your life.

We can open Rams Head Deck after 5 p.m. and add cubes at the Student and Academic Services Building to make South Campus a destination.

We can push for flexible student meal options that fit your lifestyle.

We can rethink our approach toward safety and diversity to build an inclusive environment in which anyone with the academic ability can come to UNC and to succeed.

This is the magical thing about UNC — students have a voice and can make a difference. I am asking you to take a moment tomorrow and make your voice heard.

There is too much at stake to allow decisions on tuition, academics and fees to be made without a strong student advocate.

I have shown that I can be that advocate both on campus, with the South Road Bridge, and at the state level when I helped stop a \$200 tuition tax on students.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, the student body president must be willing to take a strong and effective stand in our defense.

That is the kind of proven leadership we need in a student body president, and that is why I am asking for your vote.

Hark the Sound!

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Laurel Holden, lholden@email.unc.edu



MARY COOPER
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A voice to lead you through next year

My first year at UNC, I joined the men's rowing team. I know, I know — I was a little smaller than my teammates, but I wasn't a rower, I was a coxswain.

A coxswain sits in the back of the boat, steers it and coordinates the power and rhythm of the rowers.

When I did my job well, I helped bring everyone together and across the finish line. With my voice, I helped them be the best they could.

UNC students: You are the power and rhythm of the University. That's been true since Hinton James walked this campus, and it's still true for those of you who live in the dorm named after him, two centuries later.

I want to help channel your drive and passion and steer this energy through the tough decisions that we, as a University community, must make.

When I do my job well, then you'll be able to do yours better.

Whether you're an artist, an activist, an athlete or all three, we depend on the same community to strengthen and fuel us.

If you spend your time raising record amounts of money for the N.C. Children's Hospital, raising the visibility of multiculturalism on campus or raising the stakes on your academics through research, I want to help you excel at UNC.

In my platform, there are big things — and little things — that will help you excel.

Helping you find faculty mentors, not just advisers.

Creating a better process to connect you with the resources you need to fix a problem.

Creating a performing arts listserv so that you know what performances are going on.

I'll need help with these, so I'm ready to put together the best team of people possible to serve the larger UNC community.

This past winter, I went to the Music City Bowl, and at halftime I belted out the lines of "Hark the Sound" with the other UNC students around me, almost — but not quite — drowned out by the booing of angry Tennessee fans.

As I looked around I saw specks of blue dotting the stadium. Despite the sea of orange separating us, the song we sang and the team we cheered for united us all. It was our love for UNC that brought us to our feet — and kept us standing until the very end.

Every UNC fan had something in common that night. It didn't matter how far we were from Chapel Hill — all of our hearts were there. While I'm from Nashville, I knew that night that I will always be a Tar Heel.

UNC has forever shaped who I am. It has given me innumerable opportunities and a variety of perspectives.

It has challenged and inspired me, and I am ready to give back to the community as student body president.

I'm running because I want to do something for you. If you elect me tomorrow, you'll give me the opportunity to work for you on a variety of issues, including tuition and fees, safety and academics.

You'll elect someone whose goal is to understand what you need from your University community.

You'll elect someone who will use her voice to make sure that you are always proud to be a Tar Heel.

IL

1,785 general election votes

MC

2,760 general election votes

Ian Lee vs. Mary Cooper

Voting starts at midnight on MyUNC

THE LOWDOWN ON THE ELECTION

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Tuition	Ian Lee seemed to have a more solid grasp on the tuition process and a more realistic assessment of his influence. Mary Cooper promises to build the "Tuition Dream Team." But we're not sure what it would be able to accomplish in the face of unprecedented budget challenges. Edge: Ian Lee	IL
Academics	Both candidates made fair points about academic initiatives. Cooper calls for an "Enrichment Fund" for students to attend conferences and seminars. Lee pushes for a formalized three-year graduation track. Both were fine — but neither of them shines brighter than the other. Edge: Tie	TIE
Safety	Cooper had two platform planks that really stood out in the area of improving safety. One was adding First Aid to LFIT classes. The other was a flat-rate taxi service similar to the one the Panhellenic Council operates. These were two innovative ideas that Lee didn't match. Edge: Mary Cooper	MC
Experience	Lee's student government experience is probably his greatest asset and his greatest liability. Being student body secretary was a source of controversy in this election, but his institutional knowledge stood out as beneficial for navigating student government and the administration. Edge: Ian Lee	IL
Technology	Lee has shown that he gets technology. After all, he pioneered electronic petitioning. He also has fine ideas for expanding wireless on-campus and a technology package for Greeks off-campus. It was similar to Cooper's plan for expanding CCI but felt more comprehensive. Edge: Ian Lee	IL
Services	Lee's dining and parking platforms were especially innovative. He proposes "meal plan equivalency" to allow students to use their meal plan at Bottom of Lenoir. He also wants to push to expand students' access to the Rams Head Deck and have half-off parking tickets. Edge: Ian Lee	IL
Outreach	Lee and Cooper both had a similar plan for reaching out to campus. Cooper called it the "Triage" while Lee called it "Fix My Campus." We like Lee's plan better of having a system similar to Fix My Room for students to petition student government and voice concerns. Edge: Ian Lee	IL
Campaigns	Cooper clearly ran one of the cleanest campaigns. While not entirely above confrontation with other candidates, she seemed to be largely above the fray. She might not have nailed all the issues, but she did a better job than Lee at minimizing distractions from them. Edge: Mary Cooper	MC
Intangibles	This is Cooper's election to lose, and it won't be easy for Lee to overtake her. She has charisma and is a pleasure to talk to about her goals and aspirations. She may not lead on all of the ideas, but she does have a quality about her that makes her shine. Edge: Mary Cooper	MC

The Bottom Line — Lee for Student Body President