

RHA presidency race uncontested again

Peng will seek to increase visibility

BY CAROLYN MILLER
STAFF WRITER

The post of the Residence Hall Association president hasn't been contested in seven years. And this year is no different. Sophomore Hans Peng, the community governor for Cobb Residence Hall, said he will bring a commitment to increasing the organization's visibility to his

almost-guaranteed presidency. As the lone confirmed candidate, Peng can only lose to a write-in candidate. "I feel like a lot of people don't know what RHA stands for," Peng said. The RHA is one of the University's largest student organizations, overseeing about 10,000 students and acting as a representative body for on-campus residents' concerns. He said the organization has worked to increase its own visibility over the past two years — and that

he would continue these efforts. Peng's platform also includes strengthening the ties between RHA and ResNET, which could make strides in bringing Netflix to campus. Current RHA president Ryan Collins said Peng is friendly, open and has experience in the organization. "He gets along with people well," he said, adding that Netflix will provide a "cheaper way to keep current movies available in residence halls." RHA is not just about its pro-



RHA president hopeful **Hans Peng** is the community governor for Cobb Residence Hall.

grams or enhancements, but also acts to represent and cater to students' needs, Collins said. "We're here to serve them," he said. At the beginning of every year the president outlines goals to

accomplish during his or her term, Collins said. "I'm responsible for maintaining that agenda throughout the year and making sure we're achieving what we set out to achieve," he said. Collins said he identified Peng as a potential candidate for RHA president in December and discussed the central elements of the position with him. The two have met two more times since then, Collins said, to fine-tune his goals. Junior McKinney Brown had declared his candidacy for the

position but dropped out about a week into the campaign. He said he wanted to participate in Ian Lee's campaign for student body president, which represents a large time commitment. He also cited broader concerns about taking on the position. "This isn't for me," Brown said. But he said he has heard good things about Peng. "From what I hear he's a great guy," he said. *Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.*

Thorp talks diversity Groups endorse Ingram, Lee

BY CHELSEA BAILEY
STAFF WRITER

Students gathered around Chancellor Holden Thorp on Monday night to talk innovation and critique the University's diversity and transportation policies. Held in the Upendo Lounge of the Student and Academic Services Building, the open house was the first to be held on South Campus. Thorp began the evening's discussions by highlighting diversity's role in answering President Barack Obama's call for innovation in the State of the Union address Jan. 25. "If you create an environment where only one kind of people have access to the table, then you're not going to maximize your opportunity to create something new," Thorp said. "One unmistakable part of that is getting people from different backgrounds together."



DTH/ERIN HULL

Chancellor Holden Thorp held an open forum in the Upendo Lounge of SASB on Monday where students voiced their opinions on diversity.

address both innovation and diversity. "I think if you have this type of program in place, especially with faculty in graduate school programs, it would encourage future students to stay at Carolina and maybe they'll be interested in staying and becoming faculty members in the future," she said. But students were outspoken against the Department of Public Safety's five-year plan to increase parking fees and to begin charging fees for night parking on campus. "Parking and transportation doesn't put students first," said Shelby Dawkins-Law, a senior. "The entire problem would be solved if they increased the bus route, which is free already." Notably absent from the discussion were questions surrounding budget cuts, though Thorp stressed that the University will strive to continue to meet 100 percent of need-based aid.

"If folks are spending time feeling excluded, then they're not spending time being creative," Thorp said. "That's part of the environment we have to create in order to have an ecosystem of new ideas." The student advisory committee to the chancellor worked closely with the Black Student Movement to organize Monday's event. Organizers said the new location represented an opportunity to bring the chancellor to the students. "The benefit is if students are engaged early there aren't so many problems later," said Jeremy Martin, a member of the committee. "If administrators already have student input, then they don't have to work as hard to get students engaged later on."

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Candidates face off in two forums

BY BROOKE HEFNER
STAFF WRITER

Student body president candidates Ian Lee and Rick Ingram were endorsed Monday by UNC's College Republicans and Young Democrats, respectively, after taking part in back-to-back forums. The candidates — Lee, Ingram, Mary Cooper and Brooklyn Stephens — fielded questions from members of each club and then from the public. Each organization voted on an official endorsement. Candidates discussed issues ranging from student fees to campus safety. Each candidate received the opportunity to discuss their platforms as well. At the College Republicans forum, the discussion revolved around the issue of student fees. All candidates supported a version of a student fee audit. Lee said fees should be broken up into line items so that students can better understand how those fees are allocated. "We need to add transparency to the process," he said. Candidates were asked how they would work with the administration during the brief window to determine tuition for the next year. "This is where experience is key," Lee said. "You need to immediately start speaking with administrators. If you know the process, you can call them out on that process."

Ingram said student fees have never been the major priority of an administration, but that would change if he were elected. "I can do a lot in six months if you give me the opportunity," he said. On the issue of campus safety,



DTH/HELEN WOOLARD

Student body president candidates voice their goals and opinions at the College Republicans' forum Monday evening at Hanes Art Center.

candidates argued about the efficiency of certain programs on campus. Stephens said she thinks some programs could be cut but that publicizing them would also increase their efficiency. Ingram pointed to the fact that only an average of 40 students use SafeWalk nightly. "Is this making us safer?" Ingram said. "There are definitely some programs to be looked at." Cooper said she wouldn't cut any safety programs. "If one person's life is saved, that fee is absolutely worth it," Cooper said. Anthony Dent, chairman of the College Republicans, said the organization endorsed Lee because of his consistent position on student fees. "Some members felt he was a more honest worker," Dent said. The Young Democrats forum

focused on issues such as civic participation and awareness. When asked about the current student health care plan that allows students to opt out of abortion coverage, all agreed with the current plan except Ingram. "Everyone needs to have the right," he said. "I don't think they should be able to opt out." Candidates also cited their experience with political participation. Lee, Ingram and Cooper said they had lobbying experience with legislative bodies while Stephens said she would be new to the process but ready to work. A spokesman for the Young Democrats said the group endorsed Ingram because of his history with the organization and the belief that he will work diligently to achieve his platform goals.

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