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NYPIRG, Athletic Referenda Voided

Fairhall Wins; Freshmen Rep Race to Run-off

By Howard Saltz
and John Burkhardt

Referenda that would have funded intercollegiate athletics through 1985 and the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) through 1983 were invalidated by the Polity Judiciary early this morning, just hours after polls closed on a busy day of elections.

In a move that one Polity official termed "unprecedented," the Judiciary voided the referenda that would have increased the student activities fee \$3.40 per student per semester to fund 17 intercollegiate athletic teams in the spring, 1982 semester, and allocate \$5 per student per semester to the teams through the spring, 1985 semester, because insufficient notification of the referenda was given. The referendum that would have funded NYPIRG \$2.10 per student per semester was nullified because of a typographical error on half the ballots stating that funding was through 1984 instead of 1983.

The decision to invalidate the athletics referenda was called precedent-setting by Election Board Co-Chairman

Jim Burton. The Election Board's rules say that referenda must be advertised, Burton said, but they do not specify a time period.

Burton could not give a new date for the referenda to be voted on, but his co-chairman, Jodi Schwartz, suggested that they will be voted on at the same time as run-off elections for Polity officers is held. That date, she said, will be decided by the Polity Council.

Fairhall Re-Elected

In the election, Polity Treasurer Chris Fairhall, running unopposed, was re-elected to a one-year term with 1,677 votes.

The race for freshman representative will be decided by a run-off as no candidate received a majority. O'Neill resident Belina Anderson lead in that contest with 276 votes; Benedict resident Joy Ann Sopio tallied 203; and Grey College resident Luis Ramos finished with 186. Anderson and Sopio will meet again for the Polity Council seat.

Voter turnout for the freshman race was slightly disappointing to some Election Board members. However, Schwartz termed the turnout for the one

Judiciary seat "great." Peter Weinberg won that position over Kaivan Rahbari, 1,274 votes to 356.

In addition, one race for building senator will be decided by a run-off. In Hendrix College, write-in candidate Felipe Paredes, with 34 votes, and Andrea Georges, with 27, will vie for the seat in that building. Thirteen votes for candidate Anne Rochford denied the other two of a majority, thereby necessitating the run-off. Twenty-three Senate seats were filled (see chart, page 13).

Part of the reason for the good voter turnout may have been the decision to return to ballot boxes and decentralized voting. Last year, voting booths were set up in a few locations on campus. Booths could not be provided at locations throughout campus because of the cost, according to the Election Board co-chairmen.

Referenda

The Judiciary's decision to invalidate the referenda was based on the complaint of two students, G. Brian Hutchinson and Mike Kornfeld, the latter of whom won a commuter seat in the

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Belina Anderson



Joy Ann Sopio

Ad Hoc Committee Analyzes Calendar Proposals

By Nancy A. DiFranco

The University Ad Hoc Calendar Committee met Wednesday and developed three proposals to be presented at the November meeting of the SUSB Senate after more careful analysis by the committee.

The current proposals under consideration are:

- To leave the present calendar unchanged with thirteen class weeks, and one week of finals (finishing by Christmas).
- To start classes before Labor Day, with finals week ending by Christmas.
- To start classes after Labor Day and go past Christmas, which would entail ending classes in mid-December for an approximately 10 day vacation, then returning to school for classes for another week and a half, after which a brief reading period might occur. The reading period would be followed by a final examination period and a one week registration period (which a student need not attend if he pre-registers). The spring semester would then begin immediately.

The seven member committee is composed of Faculty Representative English Professor, Homer Goldberg; Assistant Provost, James McKenna; Graduate School Representative Jacob Stein; Chairman of the Graduate Student Organization; Student Affairs Representative William Strockbine, University Registrar; Administration Representative Sei Sujishi, dean for Physical Sciences; Student Representative and Co-Chairman, Polity President Jim Fuccio, and SUSB Senate President and Co-Chairman Physics Professor, Alfred Goldhaber.

The committee is assessing the problems associated with each proposal. Although the state currently requires 2,250 minutes of class time for a three credit course, Stony Brook is now scheduled for 2,400 minutes. In-class time was not sacrificed, although the semester was shortened.

"It seems that there isn't adequate time for people to pursue their studies and extracurricular activities" said Stein. "When you have lab reports or projects due there just isn't enough time."

Strockbine stated that at this time it is necessary to

reexamine the academic calendar.

"Two years ago we had 15 of each day (of the week) and the removal of two weeks from that calendar represents a significant reduction of time available to students and faculty to complete the semester of work," he said.

Strockbine also said that he "had spoken with Ed Podolnick, director of counseling. He is reported an increase in the number of students seeking counseling services. They believe that the shortened calendar is partly responsible for their seeking counseling."

The committee also discussed the problems of starting classes before Labor Day, with finals ending by Christmas. There are many professional meetings which faculty must attend before Labor Day. The starting of classes early would result in the absence at these meetings or a substitute being required to start the semester for the absentee professor.

The other pitfalls to starting the semester before Labor Day discussed by the committee include:

- The fact that there is lack of off-campus housing



William Strockbine

before the Labor Day weekend makes it difficult for students to find housing. In the fall of 1978 and '79 students were sleeping on benches and in cars, while waiting for apartments.

- The end of the summer, the Labor Day weekend in particular, is important to students with summer jobs. Much revenue in the form of tips comes in at that time. Students would have to give up this revenue in order to return to school. Others such as those who work as lifeguards, must work on this weekend, and cannot afford to leave their jobs early.

The effects of starting classes after Labor Day and ending them after Christmas would be numerous. According to Strockbine, the committee cited the following:

- According to an estimate by Strockbine, the extra heating costs could approach \$100,000.
- Students who wish to work during the winter vacation would have a difficult time doing so.
- During the intersession, students might have difficulty retaining the material they learned during the semester.
- The University would not have sufficient time to review students' records, in order to determine academic standing. Under the proposed new academic calendar, it would be about the third week of the spring semester before students would be informed whether or not they had been dismissed due to poor grades.
- In addition to the one held before the opening of the semester there are also professional meetings held after Christmas for certain disciplines, such as Romance, German and Slavic Language.

Junior Susan Ulrich, who works during her winter vacation, to help pay for school, said, "I could see shortening it [winter vacation] by one week, but to take away several weeks would be unrealistic to the students' needs. Then you also have the pressure of studying on you during the holidays; during the holidays you don't want the thought of finals looming over your

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