

## Are you ready to vote? Have a Voice

### *SGA debate sets the stage for this week's election*

[Fadhel Kaboub](#) Apr . 19 . 2004

About 25 students attended the SGA 90-minute long debate between the two running tickets *Advocates* and *Vision* (Apr. 14), a significant improvement vis-à-vis last year's attendance (6 students). The debate gave UMKC students a final opportunity to know the candidates, and evaluate their administrative expertise.

Voting poles are open on campus and online ([click here to vote](#)) April 19-21.

For many students who followed the debate last Wednesday, there wasn't a debate to speak of. The two competing tickets agreed more or less on the key issues of interest to most UMKC students, namely dealing with tuition increases, solving parking problems, increasing student involvement in campus activities, and improving safety on campus.



Candidates of both tickets have remarkable qualities and great charisma, and are committed to do their best to serve their fellow students starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. The only differences between *Vision* and *Advocates*, however, seem to revolve around their different experiences and involvement in student activities.

The *Advocates*, under the leadership of Geoff Gerling (P) and Tom Kernan (Exec. VP), have a significant advantage in terms of administrative experience by virtue of being the current SGA leaders. The *Advocates* have argued that experience is one of their key assets, and that it will take the *Vision* candidates months before they get up and running and start working effectively. "Are you gonna pull out your manual every time a situation arises?" asked Tom Kernan (*Advocates*).

The *Vision* candidates, under the leadership of Eugene Lickenbrock (P) Tadros Abdelmalek (Exec. VP) both of whom are Resident Assistants at the UMKC Residence Hall, made it clear that they have a different kind of experience in leadership and commitment to serving students. "Do you know the number for Safewalk?" asked Tadros Abdelmalek (*Vision*), "I bet we would, because as Resident Assistants, we deal with it all the time."

This year's election could be a tight one as the *Vision* candidates will appeal primarily to residents of the UMKC Residence Hall, whereas the *Advocates* will rely on their broader connection with other student leaders and supporters.

The results of the election will be announced on Wednesday evening (April 21), and will be available on [www.kcaurora.com](http://www.kcaurora.com)

For more info about the candidates and the election, visit the *Kansas City Aurora* special page devoted to the 2004 SGA election: [2004 SGA Election Coverage](#)

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