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McGraw, Olivier, Kirkham win big in ASB Elections

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ADDISON DENT | *The Daily Mississippian*

Over 100 associated student body candidates, campaign workers and supporters surrounded the steps of the Lyceum at 5:20 p.m. yesterday.

For the presidential race, the crowd was almost evenly divided between those wearing blue stickers for presidential candidate Taylor McGraw and those with red stickers for his opponent, Cortez Moss. A glance at the crowd appeared to give Moss supporters the edge.

But when ASB officials announced the results voted by 3,019 students at 5:30 p.m., it was the McGraw supporters who gathered around each other in celebration.

"I would not be here without every single person who helped me during my campaign," McGraw said. "I want to thank Cortez for running an awesome campaign. He made me work for every single vote."

McGraw received 1,517 votes, while Moss pulled in 1,468 votes. Counting the 21 voters that voted on write-in candidates, McGraw won by 50.46 percent.

"It has to be one of the closest races in ASB history," McGraw said.

Shortly after the results were announced, Moss issued his support for McGraw.

"I'm willing to work and help Taylor," Moss said. "This is not the end. I still have things to accomplish."

Abby Olivier and Evan Kirkham also won their elections, though in a less dramatic fashion.

Olivier received 2,146 votes for the position, while her opponent Casey Stafford received 776.

"The first thing I thought when I won was that I was going to do a good job, and that I'm ready to get started working," Olivier said. "I'm honored and humbled and fortunate that people supported me."

Kirkham, running for attorney general, received 1,600 votes and his opponent, BJ Barr, received 1,285 votes.

"My opponent ran a clean campaign, and I'm glad to be on top," Kirkham said. "I am a sophomore, and I'm very humbled that people supported me."

Jon Daniel McKiever, Courtney Pearson and John James ran unopposed for secretary, judicial chair and treasurer, respectively, and were elected to those positions Tuesday night.

McGraw said that when he takes office, he will start working on his to-do list.

"I've had at to-do list since I joined the senate freshman year, and I mark one off as I get it done," McGraw said. "I've still got a lot to do on that list. I am ready to fulfill all of my campaign promises."

Kirkham said the first thing he is going to do is sit down and work on refining the ASB code. Olivier said she wants to work with senators to restructure the senate.

Dean of students Sparky Reardon and current president Virginia Burke said they were ready to work with the new officers.

"I'm excited about their ideas and energy," Burke said.

McGraw said he hoped to get some time to thank every one of his supporters last night.

"First, I'm going to the ASB senate meeting, then chess club and then an intramural basketball game," McGraw said. "Then, I hope to take my girlfriend out for Valentine's Day on the Square, since I wasn't able to yesterday."

Olivier had dinner plans with her parents, followed by a get-together with her supporters.

Kirkham, after two weeks of non-stop work, said he was only thinking about one thing.

"Sleep," he said. "I may celebrate a little, but I am really ready to sleep."


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