

Students seek answers at President, Provost Forum

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tuition is expected to rise every year because expenses rise every year.

The next question from the audience came from student Douglas Wilhelm and asked why professors are not required to use Blackboard in order to help students keep track of their grades. Provost Cramb replied that, while he doesn't have an exact answer, he will be referring the question to Vice Provost Chris White to look into.

Another question from the audience asked what the vision for the campus environment was, specifically considering the Kaplan Innovation Center, a new academic building planned for campus. President Anderson and Provost Cramb talked about the new building focusing on application of knowledge gained in the classroom as well as serving as a new home for the university's IPRO program.

A set of playful questions came next from a student in the crowd, asking why neither the president nor provost wear pocket squares with their suits and asking if the president and provost could buy a fancy dinner sometime for all students.

Egle Malinauskaite asked the next question from the audience. She asked why the Julia Beveridge award was no longer awarded

at IIT and if anything could be done to bring it back or offer a similar award that recognizes IIT-affiliated women. Provost Cramb passed the question over to Dean Stetz, who says the award remains in a state of flux because a group of representatives of the university did not come to a conclusion as to which office should remain in charge of the award or how it should be presented.

Two questions came from an additional student in the audience. He expressed concerns that class sizes are increasing, but support of Teaching Assistants (TAs) in classes is not increasing. He asked if there was any planning to maintain the quality of education as the undergraduate body increases. Provost Cramb says that budgeting increases each year for TAs and other resources and that resources are allocated according to the populations of classes. The student's second question expressed concerns about leaking water and other facilities problems that face various buildings on campus. "We have a campus that was built in the 50s and 60s and we have a tremendous need across the university to invest in our infrastructure. We spent \$10 million in Engineering 1, but we needed \$20 million; we don't have \$20 million to spend. It's not that

we don't recognize the issue, it's that we don't have the funds to cover all of the issues. One of the things we do with tuition is a lot of maintenance of our facilities. We unfortunately just don't have enough tuition or total income in the university to do everything that needs to be done at this time," said Cramb. He adds that the university is doing their best to keep up with problems as they arise.

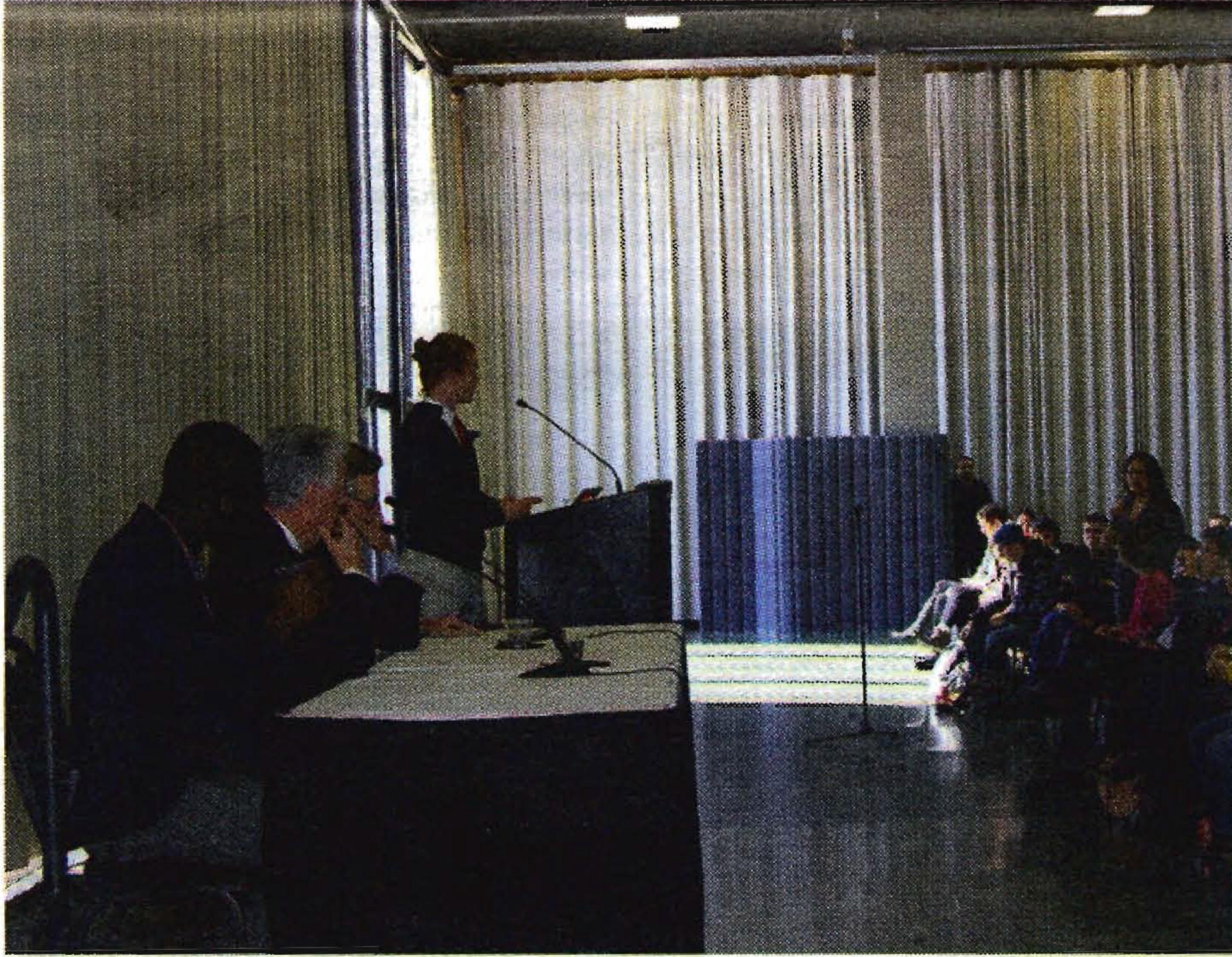
The next question came from a student in the audience. He asked the president and provost what the plans are for the unoccupied and unusable buildings on campus. President Anderson says that the university is hoping to see Main Building usable in some capacity, even though it needs a lot of work to bring it up to code. According to Anderson, the building will likely never be functional for the university academically, but there is an open request for proposals for private corporations to renovate the building. Provost Cramb adds that there are strong plans to renovate Bailey and Cunningham residence halls and move students move into them within the next year or two.

An additional question from the audience expressed that the university should provide assistance to promote and utilize the

innovation of students on campus. President Anderson says that the university tries to promote the creations of their students, but that it could work harder.

The final question was another question from Doug Wilhelm, who asked why parking rates at the university continue to increase while the gates to parking lots are often left open, which makes parking less exclusive to those who pay for it. President Anderson and Provost Cramb say that the parking rates for our campus are reasonable and comparable to those of other universities and that those who park in lots without a permit will receive parking tickets during the hours that parking is enforced.

The wealth of questions caused the President and Provost Forum to run a little bit late, but many students stayed for the entire duration. Gabriel Connors added that he will be working with the president's office to get any remaining questions answered and posted online and in a future issue of TechNews. SGA President Akinade Aderele closed the event by thanking all in attendance.



Photos by Kevin Zheng

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