



*For immediate release*

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## THE HARVARD COLLEGE DEMOCRATS ENDORSE PETERSEN–SUNDQUIST FOR UC

After an extensive endorsement meeting lasting over an hour and a half and involving the participation of thirty-six members-at-large, the Harvard College Democrats announced their endorsement of the Petersen–Sundquist ticket for the Undergraduate Council (UC) presidential election. The endorsement represents a considerable victory for the Petersen–Sundquist campaign, as the Dems’ endorsement has historically been one of the crucial deciding factors in the UC race.

The endorsement process, a first for the Democrats and markedly different from the process followed by most student groups, involved a one-hour town hall meeting in which the Petersen–Sundquist, Hadfield–Goldenberg, Anene–de Beausset, and Zaidi–Lee tickets presented their plans for the future of the UC and fielded questions from Democrats and other progressive students. The discussion focused on the greenhouse gas referendum, support for progressive student groups, and the mechanical operation of the UC’s day-to-day activities.

The Petersen–Sundquist campaign received wide support from the Dems for their commitment to use the UC to support the efforts of student action groups. The endorsement represents a degree of frustration with UC’s self-importance, as the Dems made their final choice in favor of ‘nuts and bolts’ progress rather than complicated governmental reform.

The ticket was endorsed by over a two-thirds majority of voters consisting of thirty-six members-at-large and executive board members of the Dems.

“We’re excited to get behind a candidate that is going to go beyond the structural aspects of the UC and start focusing on the students and the student organizations on this campus, such as the Harvard College Democrats,” said Brigit M. Helgen ’08, the President of the Harvard College Democrats.

Jillian K. Swencionis ’08, the Dems’ Political Director, added “I think that this process is much more inclusive of our membership and it demonstrates the role that members-at-large have in our organization. We take our most responsible, active members very seriously and we value what they have to say on issues such as this one. We look forward to working with Ryan and Matt in the upcoming year.”

“I was totally undecided before tonight,” said the Dems’ Vice President Harlan M Piper ’08. “It was an informative, thoughtful debate that gave every candidate the chance to discuss the issues in this campaign. Petersen really won me over with his demonstrated commitment to these important progressive values.”

“I think it’s a very exciting endorsement to get,” said Sundquist. “The Dems are obvious a very well-respected group on campus.”

*The Harvard College Democrats are the largest partisan political organization at Harvard University. With extensive campaign efforts, numerous events every week, the Dem Apples blog, and over three hundred active members, the Harvard College Democrats are a powerful and expanding group of undergraduates. For more, visit [www.harvarddems.com](http://www.harvarddems.com).*