



For immediate release

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THE HARVARD COLLEGE DEMOCRATS REAFFIRM THEIR SUPPORT FOR PETERSEN–SUNDQUIST.

The Harvard College Democrats are proud to reiterate their support for the Petersen–Sundquist Undergraduate Council (UC) ticket as the week of voting begins. The leadership of the Dems firmly supports the decision made by our members-at-large last Wednesday and continues to assert that the Petersen–Sundquist ticket represents the best combination of tested leadership and progressive advocacy.

We reject the rhetoric that the UC's priorities should be located on a costly and unwieldy reform of its own system. Coming off of a year in which the UC undertook a complete overhaul, we feel that the UC should now focus on using its apparatus with the greatest utility possible. Ryan Petersen and Matt Sundquist have far and away the most serious and most ambitious commitment to making the UC serve students, and it is a commitment which is bolstered by a track record unrivaled by any other ticket.

No other members of the UC can match the experience Petersen and Sundquist have with getting things done in University Hall, a fact evidenced in today's decision by Dean Gross to refund the unpopular student group gift tax. Posturing and grandstanding will not win the students any favors in the administration. Professional, effective leadership is the key to ensuring that student demands are met with meaningful responses from the University.

Moreover, the Petersen-Sundquist ticket represents solid progressive leadership on issues which are important to Harvard undergraduates like gender issues. The Republican-endorsed and Fox Club-supported Hadfield–Goldenberg ticket simply does not have its priorities in synchronization with that of Harvard's mainstream. We are proud to join with allies like the Harvard Progressive Advocacy Group; the Association of Black Harvard Women; Strong Women, Strong Girls; and BGLTSA in agreeing that the Petersen–Sundquist ticket represents positive leadership for our campus.

We believe that the Petersen–Sundquist ticket is the natural inheritor of the winning Haddock–Riley ticket which we endorsed last year and whose campaign was endorsed overwhelmingly by the undergraduate body. We fully expect them to continue the hard work that was begun last year and not waste the UC's time on meaningless political navel-gazing.

“While we understand the Crimson editorial board's decision to endorse their own staff for the UC's leadership, we feel certain that this will make two concurrent years in which the Crimson has endorsed the losing candidate,” said Jillian K. Swencionis '08, the Dems' Political Director.

“If ‘ineffectual prodding’ brought us a refund of the student group gift tax, the Lamont Café, freedom to express gender identity without fear of discrimination, Lamont 24/5, and more, then more ‘prodding’ is what students need to get the results they want from the administration,” she added.

We encourage our members and all of our community to cast their vote for Petersen–Sundquist, and to volunteer to help them to a rousing victory.

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.

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