

Options for GE Eliminated By Academic Senate

Controversial Options Proposed by Ramskov and Rappaport Voted Out

By Nelson Ching
Editor in Chief

The Academic Senate eliminated two controversial proposed options by Economics Professor Steve Rappaport and Psychology Instructor Charles Ramskov on March 2, and began discussing the General Education Statement of Philosophy on March 8.

The options, which would have made General Education requirements at De Anza mirror those of the California State University and University of California systems, and also according to some, would hinder diversity at De Anza, were eliminated from the list of possible options due to the "taking away of power from De Anza," according to Jim Haynes.

Haynes, an instructor in the Physical Education Department, is the Executive Secretary of the Academic Senate and made the motion to eliminate the options, which passed by a vote of 16-1.

"Ultimately it just didn't make any sense," said Haynes. "Some organization ... [who] we don't know, we don't know their criteria, [and] we don't know their approval process - why would we let them approve courses that would end up on our degree requirements?"

Ramskov felt that there was room for change. "The thing about it is that none of this is set in cement," said Ramskov. "We offered up the viewpoint that could easily be modified," said Ramskov.

"We were just hoping they would leave the options as they were submitted intact, and we could all vote on them ... the Senate played kind of a paternal role," said Ramskov.

The options have undergone many name changes and revisions since

their initial proposal, currently being called Options F and H.

Throughout this debate, neither side has had formal discussion regarding the loss of diversity, but are both willing to discuss that aspect of the criteria.

"If you're saying, that your discipline - the area you know the most about - cannot have that, then let's have it out," said Haynes.

"Come and make that academic argument," said Haynes.

Ramskov was also receptive to the idea of a formal discussion.

Although Options F and H were eliminated there is still a possibility of including them in the list of proposed options.

Augustine Martinez, Chair of the General Education Steering Committee has invited Rappaport and Ramskov to revise their options and resubmit them.

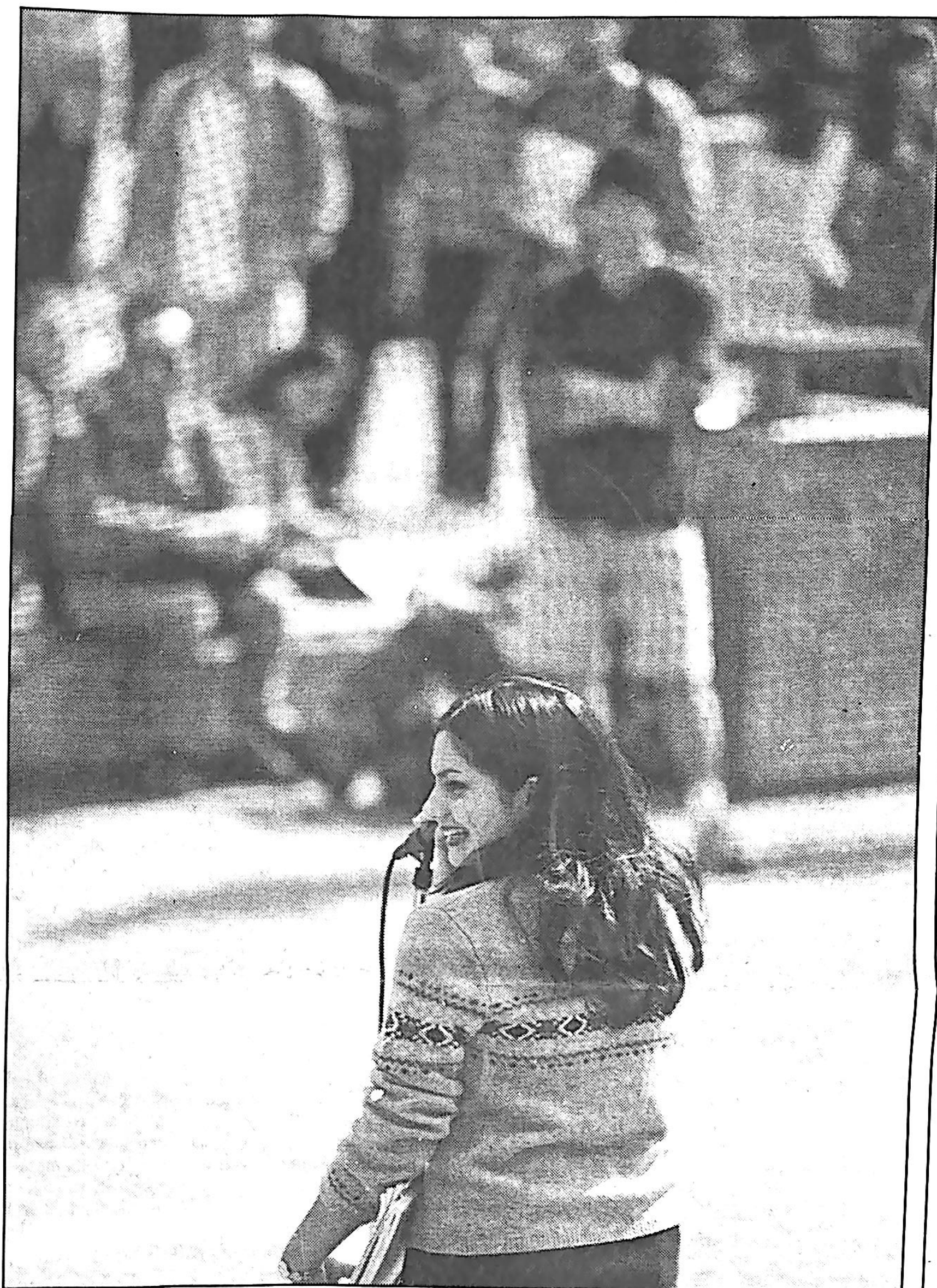
A possible petition is being circulated to the Foothill - De Anza Board of Trustees, regarding Options F and H announced Kathy Plum at the Academic Senate meeting on March 8.

The formal process to review general education within the Academic Senate began on March 8 with a discussion on the General Education Statement of Philosophy.

Other items discussed were a revised Change of Grade Form, presented by Judy Miner.

Faculty and Students Discuss Controversy over General Education

-See letters to the Editor on page 13



Nelson Ching / La Voz

Student Trustee to the Academic Senate, Supriya Bhat, spoke at the Student Walkout on February 22. Bhat, along with the rest of the Academic Senate eliminated the options that would have mirrored De Anza's GE Requirement with the California State University and University of California requirements on March 1.