AGGIELIFE

Man with a plan

Student Body President Matt Josefy balances senior year and student representation

By Daniel Chapman

Before his campaign last spring, Matt Josefy had not run for y student government positions since the ninth grade. However, sdid not stop him from getting started immediately after being

A day after giving the State of the University Address, Student dy President Matt Josefy, a senior accounting major, sat behind desk in his office hard at work with all the responsibilities that me along with his position.

"When I got to Texas A&M I had no interest in student govnent. I had no idea that I would end up in this type of posim." Josefy said. "So when asked about what motivates me, it is ormy desire to be in a political position. I really was motivated the changes that I felt needed to be made.

On the forefront of Josefy's agenda of change is the idea of a entorship program that links freshmen with upperclassmen and dents with former students in the industries in which they are erested. Essentially, the plan is to utilize the Aggie Network to mefit students to the fullest extent, he said.

Thave personally seen what mentorship could do for me. I s a part of the FBI (Freshman Business Initiative) program that hed co-found and have worked with for over two years," he id. "I asked myself what the next step would be and that's when came involved in student government."

While many of the ideas put forth by Josefy seem on track with udent's needs, some students say they feel a lot will have to be one to see these goals materialize.

Richard Stevenson, a junior marketing major and Staff onference Chair for the Residence Life Staff Council said if hanges are to occur, the process needs must begin now.

He said he believes Josefy has a good start with his philosophy mentorship, but is cautiously optimistic about how he is going implement his ideas and how well they are going to work.

He has laid down an outline on how he wants to run the menship program, but actually getting the students involved is a lot work that would stretch for a couple of years," Stevenson said. Making sure that the program lasts is in question, when it sounds the is leading the program and there would be no one to realpick it up after he leaves."

losefy said he knows that at times the cards are stacked against mand he has to work twice as hard to balance school and his

He said one of the biggest obstacles he faces is being a 21perold college student taking a full load of classes and having a



Matt Josefy is optimistic about plans for the upcoming year, including starting a mentoring program. He is currently in the Middle East for a welcoming ceremony for students at the Texas A&M Quatar campus.

full-time job representing students to the administration.

'It's challenging to try to delegate out all the things that need to be done and to put it in the hands of those that will be able to be passionate and create the changes that need to take place," Josefy said. "The more I can harness 44,000 students, the more ve can accomplish together.'

Many are unable to see what really goes on behind the scenes for the student body president. The hours put into work, speech writing, attending functions and taking a full course load is a task

More than anything there is a dedication to this job. If I was-

n't committed to what I'm doing, it would be easy to slack off," Josefy said. "On one hand there is an integrity issue in that there are 40,000 people that I am supposed to represent and if I don't put 110 percent in, it is an integrity compromise.

While there are always critics, some students feel Josefy is taking care of business and doing what he was elected to do.

'From what I can see, Matt is doing a great job as student body president," said Kim Avant, a junior history major. "He seems to be changing what needs to be changed and pushing the University in a good direction, but most importantly he listens to the students and tries to channel that to the administration.'

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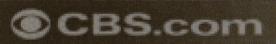
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