

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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Man with a plan

Student Body President Matt Josefy balances senior year and student representation

By Daniel Chapman
THE BATTALION

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

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

"When I got to Texas A&M I had no interest in student government. I had no idea that I would end up in this type of position," Josefy said. "So when asked about what motivates me, it is not my desire to be in a political position. I really was motivated by the changes that I felt needed to be made."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Josefy said he knows that at times the cards are stacked against him and he has to work twice as hard to balance school and his job responsibilities.

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



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

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 we 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 that few could handle.

"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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