

A younger Robert Meyer walked across Texas Tech's campus wearing a T-shirt, khaki shorts, and a pair of Chaco shoes, jamming to The Killers without a care in the world.

"At that time," Meyer said, "I didn't know I wanted to run for student body president."

Meyer, being the laid-back guy he is, needed a wardrobe change according to his campaign team.

He finally gave in and went shopping for a couple of suits and a nice pair of shoes. When he reported back to his team and showed them what he had bought, all they did was laugh.

Although the suits he bought were a step up from his previous wardrobe, his friends commented that the shoes were too big, chunky, and resembled something a 10-year-old altar boy would wear.

He decided to continue to wear the shoes, however, until after the election was over, and he now refers to them as his lucky shoes. He might not always be business, but that's OK. At the end of the day, he is still just a student.

Robert Meyer, otherwise known as Robbie, is serving as the Texas Tech student body president. This Lubbock native's term is coming to an end, however, on May 1.

In the summer of 2016, an individual approached him about running for president. Coming from Trinity Christian, a small school in Lubbock, Meyer said he was not sure if he would be able to communicate with a large number of people and was afraid the task would be too intimidating.

However, his desire to help others convinced him to give it a shot._

That same summer, Sean Lewis, the upcoming Student Government Association president, approached Meyer about helping with his campaign. Meyer and Lewis's relationship started off on professional terms, but Lewis said Meyer is the type of guy that makes you feel so comfortable it is easy to become his friend.

Meyer's government experience began his freshman year when he was chosen to be a part of the Freshman Leadership Association. As the intern for the public relations executive, he received the opportunity to experience SGA before becoming a part of the organization, Meyer said.

Through FLA, he said he realized these people had passion for improving the university.

Robert said the hardest part of the campaign process was formulating a team. He said he looked for people who were outspoken, brave and passionate. Meyer's theme for his campaign was 'Raiders Empowered' to give students a voice.

Students are an important role to the diversity of campus, and Meyer wants to represent the diverse student population equally, according to the SGA website.

Two of Meyer's initiatives for his campaign were a dog park on campus and Wi-Fi in The Jones Stadium. Some say he wasn't successful achieving these initiatives, but Robbie said it is the beginning of accomplishing them.

"There's only a year for this office," Lewis said. "So, that's not a whole lot of time to make mass change."

Lewis said if one has a different opinion from Meyer, he wants to know why in order to find a common ground. The fact that Meyer is personable and easy to talk to is why he was successful in tailoring to the students of Tech this past year.

After working under Meyer and now about to take over the office, Lewis said he hopes to build upon Meyer's progress of outreach for a growing campus in order to incorporate all students.

"Things aren't always going to go your way," Robbie said, as he leaned back in his chair chuckling. "That doesn't necessarily mean to give up, though."

Sidebar

One project Robbie Meyer, Texas Tech student body president, deemed successful during his reign was the commencement ceremony plan.

During the fall semester of 2017, the administrators had proposed a plan to change Tech's commencement ceremonies, including limiting the number of guests per graduate, not announcing individual honors, and canceling the August ceremonies.

After taking in multiple surveys from students about their opinion of the commencement proposal, Meyer and the Student Government Association were able to prevent the administration from changing the format of the commencement ceremonies.

"We couldn't be quick to make a decision," Meyer said. "There's always the possibility of repercussions, which creates division among the student body."

Meyer said they also had to be cautious in keeping their opinions separate because in their elected positions, they represent the students of Tech as a whole, not just themselves.

Sequoyah Perry, one of Meyer's interns, said the commencement proposal process was tedious because everyone had his own agenda and conflicting interest. Perry said not everyone is going to have the same opinion on the matter.

"Working under Robert was fun," Perry said. "He was good at delegating tasks to where they felt they had responsibility without being overwhelmed."

Meyers said his dedication and discipline made him good for this opportunity in representing the student body in this battle. He and his team looked at all avenues until they finally found one that worked.

"To be a Red Raider means you have to support other Red Raiders," Meyers said.

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