FORMER OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL LEE FISHER TO LEAD SAGES SEMINAR FOCUSING ON 2004 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

*Students Will Participate in Mock Presidential and Vice Presidential Debates, Hear Guest Lectures from Former Campaign Strategists*

As host of the vice presidential debate Case Western Reserve University will play an important role in the 2004 presidential campaign. And who better to teach about the dynamics of a campaign than one of Ohio’s most experienced former elected officials, Lee Fisher?

Fisher, a former Ohio state representative, state senator, state attorney general, candidate for governor, and Ohio chair of the 1992 Clinton-Gore campaign, is teaching a course at Case this fall called “The 2004 Presidential Election: How We Elect our President, Why it Matters, and What’s at Stake.” Fisher is currently president and chief executive officer of the Cleveland-based Center for Families and Children.

Fisher’s course, a semester-long nonpartisan seminar, is part of the university’s groundbreaking Seminar Approach to General Education and Scholarship (SAGES) program. Fisher is one of the program’s Presidential Fellows—experts from outside the university who teach SAGES seminars in their areas of expertise.

One of the requirements for the course is that students must prepare for and participate in mock presidential and vice presidential debates to be held in class. Students will also hear from a variety of guest speakers including representatives of the Bush, Kerry and Nader campaigns; David Wilhelm, national campaign manager of the 1992 Clinton-Gore campaign, and persons who have worked in the White House and cabinet departments.
Among the books on the course’s reading list are *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised: Democracy, the Internet, and the Overthrow of Everything; Bush’s Brain; How Karl Rove Made George Bush Presidential;* and *Too Close to Call: The Thirty-Six Day Battle to Decide the 2000 Election.*

While the seminar will explore many facets of the 2004 election, Fisher said, the emphasis will be on explaining the strategies behind the campaign, such as how candidates decide where to spend their time and money, how they decide what themes to focus on, how they respond to attacks from the opponent’s camp, and the role of the media and Internet. It will also focus on the presidential election’s impact on the nonprofit, private, and public sectors.

Launched as a pilot program in 2002, SAGES consists of a series of small-group seminars that strengthen students' analytical and communication skills while providing them with a common intellectual experience. The program culminates with a senior “capstone” project in which students demonstrate the knowledge and resourcefulness they have acquired during their years at Case. SAGES will become the general education requirement for all Case undergraduates beginning in the fall of 2005.