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State delays budget cuts

By Cyndy Cole
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX — The state will spare UA and the Arizona Health Sciences Center from further budget cuts, at least until next July.

Democratic Gov. Janet Napolitano and Republican leaders of the legislature reached the compromise yesterday.

"That's really, really good news," said Provost George Davis. "It's hard to imagine that they would have put all the cuts on the state agencies right now."

Saying that it was too late in the fiscal year for state agencies to plan for further cuts before July 1, Napolitano and legislators found a way to plug this year's \$300 million deficit. They plan to move money between accounts, delay K-12 repair projects and delay payment on a major settlement against the state.

Earlier this month Republican legislators proposed cutting the UA and health sciences budget by \$15.9 million this year and \$19.4 million next year.

On Tuesday, House Speaker Jake Flake (R-Snowflake) said that

See LEGISLATURE/10

UNION PROPOSAL



CHRIS CODUTO/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Rita Lokteff, a Sacramento State junior, gasps as her boyfriend Michael Winfield, on his knee, takes out an engagement ring and proposes yesterday afternoon. Winfield, an environmental science senior, planned for weeks to surprise her by hanging a sign from the student union.

Election platforms presented

Student candidates discuss agendas despite low turnout

By Rebekah Kleinman & Aaron Mackey
NEWS EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

Twenty-five hopeful student government candidates introduced their platforms to students in the Picacho Room of the Student Union Memorial Center last night.

However, the majority of the 40 seats in the room were filled by candidates and current officers of the Associated Students of the University of Arizona.

Last year, the forum was held on the UA Mall at noon.

But Elections Commissioner Jason Korner said that this year's change of time and venue made the forum more accessible to students, although few were in attendance.

"I encouraged people in office to come out. I wanted them to ask the candidates tough questions," he said.

Audience members were given the opportunity to question the feasibility and specifics of campaign plans, which ranged from increasing diversity on campus to obtaining corporate sponsorship for UA athletics.

However, a common theme throughout the forum focused on building a bridge between the UA students and administration, and uniting campus clubs and organizations.

"I'm all right with a meeting over lunch if it means people will be working together," said presidential candidate Jared Mansell in regard to

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Student Elections 2003

See FORUM/9

Possible tuition hike angers some students

Activists concerned with use of students' tuition dollars

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

When a group of about 15 student activists gathered Wednesday night, they knew they opposed a tuition hike. What they didn't know was how to be heard. Less than 24 hours later, they were presenting a list of demands to the Arizona Board of Regents.

Among them: a freeze on campus construction, the creation of a student-staffed budget oversight committee and the assurance that a hike won't hurt teaching or research assistants.

The activists made those demands at the regents' tuition forum late yesterday afternoon, saying that students haven't been adequately informed about the proposed \$1,000 tuition hike.

Before and during the beginning of the forum

See PROTEST/3

Students vary in views of hike

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

Students across Arizona yesterday voiced varying opinions on the appropriate size of a tuition hike, but many agreed regents and administrators must lobby lawmakers more effectively to protect the universities from future budget cuts.

Speaking at the last tuition public forum before the Arizona Board of Regents' tuition-setting meeting yesterday, several people called for graduated tuition hikes that wouldn't impact students as drastically as the \$1,000 increase proposed by Arizona's three university presidents.

Students, they said, shouldn't be forced to bear such a hefty burden, because the university's budget shortfall is the

state Legislature's fault.

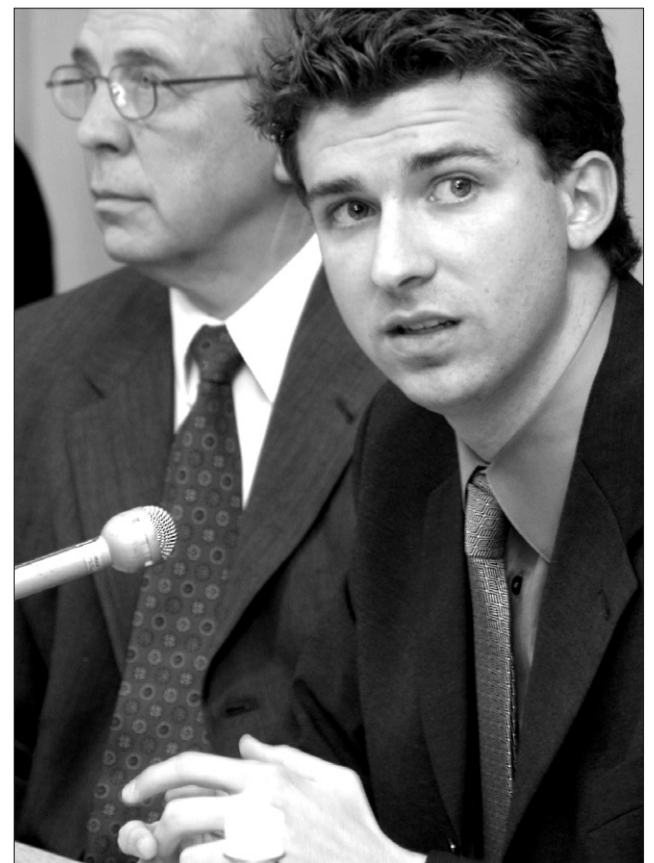
Interfraternity Council President Josh Surridge told the regents that a \$1,000 hike would especially burden greek students, who have to pay dues to their organizations, and asked them to spread the increase over two years.

"That would really help the students involved in co-curricular activities that have financial obligations to their organizations," said Surridge, who was joined by PanHellenic Council Vice President Brook Camerer in support of a graduated hike.

Some sorority members pay more than \$5,000 a year to cover room and board in the chapter's house, as well as costs for parties and other events.

Several other students, speaking over videoconference

See TUITION/3



WILL SEBERGER/Arizona Daily Wildcat
ASUA President Doug Hartz (right) and UA Provost George Davis listen to a comment during last night's Arizona Board of Regents budget teleconference. The conference allowed students to voice their opinions about budget proposals.