Russian, German merger uncertain

By Jeff Sklar

As deans across campus work to submit detailed proposals for program changes under President Pete Likins’ Focused Excellence plan, some of the people most directly affected by the proposed changes remain optimistic.

The heads of two departments considered for elimination or merger say their deans seem supportive of plans to keep those departments open.

George Gotische, head of the Russian and Slavic studies department, which is slated for a possible merger, said Humanities College Dean Charles Tatum has supported leaving the department intact. Gotische said that throughout the college, committees have found problems with the merger proposal.

That was welcome news to Gotische, who has said he worries that a merger with the German studies department would create an impersonal environment for students accustomed to getting advising from the professor of their choice.

“We’ve invested a lot of time and effort in defending our program and marshalling support, while others are”.

Next year’s aid boosted to $11.5M

By Keren G. Raz

Poor outside shooting ruins UA’s bid for Pac-10 repeat, keeps UCLA’s season alive

By Brian Penso

Los Angeles — The Wildcats and Bruins both entered the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament playing possibly their best basketball of the season.

The only difference was what the teams were playing for.

No. 1 Arizona (25-3 overall, 17-1 Pac-10) has all but assured itself a top seed in the NCAA tournament and played to repeat as champions of a tournament their head coach opposes.

UCLA (18-11, 7-12) was playing for its life.

It showed.

With UCLA head coach Steve Lavin possibly coaching his last game and the team with its back against the wall, the Bruins rallied for maybe the last time and came out and “shocked the world” by defeating the top ranked Wildcats 96-89 in overtime.

“Obviously we’re disappointed,” UA head coach Lute Olson said. “UCLA played a great game and you have to give them credit. They played a flawless second half.”

The Wildcats defeated the Bruins by a combined 71 points in the teams’ first two meetings, but that didn’t intimidate UCLA.

“I am so proud of our team,” Lavin said. “I kept telling them to keep working and eventually they would have a chance to do something special. They kept playing hard and we have a chance to really do something special this weekend.”

The win was the 10th time the Bruins beat the Wildcats.

Generation gap can isolate older students

By Shelley Shelton

For them, it is the opposite of peer pressure.

Several have families to support, while others are retired. Some feel invisible in their regular classes.

“They are the older, non-traditional student population of UA, and like their younger counterparts, they seek ways to fit in, some more successfully than others.”

“Even in the best of situations, there is a large gap in basic behavior and understanding that makes it difficult to connect beyond brief chats about your mutual class or teacher I feel lost in a sea of people I cannot connect with because of my age.”

Approximately 5,000 non-traditional students attend UA, according to Commuter Student Affairs, which is also the home of the 25+ Cats, a student club for those students who are older than 25.

For these students, finding time to seek each other out amid pressure and negative headlines from the world outside of school is difficult.

With increasing budget cuts, the older students’ biggest untapped resource is themselves, said Danielle Roberts, 29, a married mother of two and former student senator who graduated in December.

“It can be hard because of...