Minority applicants increase

By Jeff Sklar

Next year’s freshman class will likely see an increase in the number of Asian-American and American Indian students, according to admissions data.

More than 1,100 Asian-American students had applied to join next year’s class as of March 28, compared with 720 at the same time last year, a 57 percent increase.

But this year’s increase follows a year when the number of Asian-American applicants decreased significantly, said Randy Richardson, vice president for undergraduate education.

“I think we’re about where we were two years ago,” he said. “There’s a lot of year-to-year fluctuation.”

About 430 American Indians have applied, compared with about 320 last year, a 29 percent increase.

However, the number of black and Hispanic applicants is remaining fairly steady, a trend that President Pete Likins calls a cause for concern.

Terrorism clause may be added to state oath

By Cyndy Cole

PHOENIX — Future UA employees are going to have to promise not to use weapons of mass destruction or act like terrorists, under a proposal state lawmakers gave a nod to yesterday.

A measure that received preliminary approval in the state House yesterday would change the state oath that UA employees are required to take when they’re hired, adding provisions for terrorism. Future employees would have to promise that they wouldn’t try to harm branches of the government or influence policy decisions, or try to attack the government and interrupt services like communication and public transportation.

The Senate voted to pass the new state oath yesterday. The measure must be approved once more by the House before it can go to Democratic Gov. Janet Napolitano for her consideration.

The proposal from six Democratic lawmakers is in response to the Sept. 11 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, and UA workers who are not U.S. citizens would not have to take the oath.

The UA employs about 18,000 student employees, staff, appointed personnel and faculty members who had to sign the state oath before they received their first paycheck, said Allison Yastremsky, executive director of Human Resources.

The new measure would also repeal some of the old language in the oath that currently says UA employees cannot be members of the Communist Party.

UA students learn how to go hungry

By Cara O’Connor

More than 50 UA students only ate rice for dinner last night.

But these students weren’t going hungry; they were attendees at the 9th Hunger Banquet in the Student Union Memorial Center last night.

The concept was inspired by Project Volunteer, a program under the University Activities Board.

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