Undeclared sophomore Erika Jimenez and business management senior Mari Ortega work on getting papers yesterday afternoon at the Chicano/Hispano Student Resource Center in the Economics building. The total number of Hispanic students enrolled at the UA has increased by about 2.8 percent over the past 10 years.

Hispanic enrollment rises

By KRISTINA DUNHAM
Staff Writer

Hispanic student enrollment at the UA is increasing, but graduation rates for Hispanic students on campus are still lagging behind those of white students, mirroring a national trend. The number of Hispanic students who enrolled at the UA climbed about 2.8 percent during the past 10 years to make up 13.2 percent of the student body, according to UA census data released Sept. 24.

For the policy to go into permanent effect, the university has to notify the public and invite any interested party to testify before a hearing. However, it is not a question of legality, Kleespie said. "It is a bad, bad policy to have these relationships going on," she said.

Most prevalent UA STD

HPV is our big one," Libbey said. "I would say it is by far the most common thing we deal with." About 80 percent of sexually active people will contract the virus at some point in their life, according to the National Cancer and Cervical Cancer Prevention Resource Center.

The policy is designed for employees to disclose relationships — sexual or otherwise — that could create a conflict of interest at the university, and will most likely be enacted as a permanent policy in the future, said UA attorney Vicki Gotkin, who designed the policy along with vice president for campus life Saundra Taylor. For the policy to go into permanent effect, all campus constituencies involved would have to look at it, and then President Likins would have to sign off, Gotkin said.

The virus is attracting growing attention at the CDC because it is hard to track and highly common among young, sexually active people. The majority of people infected with HPV do not know it, facilitating its spread and making it somewhat more difficult to address.

The policy is not required to contact the virus, Libbey said. HPV can also be transmitted through sexual intercourse, anal sex and oral sex. Usually people with HPV do not see or feel any symptoms.

Some types of HPV cause genital warts — 3-millimeter, red or pink bumps that sometimes show up in clusters. These warts are sometimes too small to be visible on men or women or can be hidden within the vagina.

The other types of HPV that show up on the women's cervix, the lower part of the womb, can be detected with pap smears.

Doctors and nurses at Campus Health Services are expecting another influx of students reporting symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases this October. Some of the students who are having sex for the first time are contract- ing STDs, in what has become an annual event for healthcare providers on campus.

"We're seeing (STDs) more just after the beginning of school," said Faye Libbey, a nurse practitioner in the Women's Health Clinic at Campus Health. "Freshmen come in who have never been away from home before. They're having relationships that they've never had. They don't even have to have intercourse to get some (STDs), just skin-to-skin contact."

Of 1,261 UA students randomly surveyed in an anonymous questionnaire during spring 2002, about 2 percent reported having the human papillomavirus, which can lead to cervical cancer in women, or genital warts for men and women. 2 percent of the students reported having chlamydia, 1 percent reported genital herpes and 1 percent reported gonorrhea.

But the statistics are not completely accurate because some students who have STDs are unaware of them, said Melissa McGee, coordinator of harm reduction at Campus Health Services.

"I would imagine that these per- centages would be a little more ele- vated if we were able to test students (for STDs)," Gotkin said.

There has been political pressure to open up the doors of the UA community, and when parents, teachers and high school counsellors saw a change in the past 20 years, more began to push their chil- dren to enroll, he said.

Money is a big, big factor," Baldenegro added, citing how students have to not only pay tuition and books, but pay for everything ranging from parking to printing on campus. "It's not a cheap proposition to come here."

"I think that there's been a concerted effort going back to the early '80s — '82, '83, '84 — when there was a lot of pressure to do something about our hor-}

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