Dean’s office preparing for protests

Student government, deans draw up plans to deal with potential anti-war rallies

By Brittany Mansion

As war with Iraq becomes imminent, discussions are taking place in the Dean of Student’s office prepare for possible protests or crowd situations on campus.

The talk is centered on increasing the number of students, staff, faculty and police who would step in to deal with a situation.

Student-body President Doug Hartz said that a recent meeting, headed by associate dean of students Veda Kowalski, covered how the university would react in a situation where safety was compromised or threatened.

“More members of the community need to be assembled — employees, staff and students — to ensure safety in any situation,” Hartz said.

Those to be added to the expanded network of responders would include student organization representatives, student union representatives, the University of Arizona Police Department, the attorney’s office and members of organizations in high-traffic areas.

An Oct. 19 protest that drew more than 1,000 people near Old Main spurned the decision. Kowalski and UAPD officers monitored the protest and, although it was peaceful, Kowalski said there may be an inspections of the country, Iraq could fail to comply with the resolution, which would require weapons inspections of the country, Iraq could face war.

Monday, the Iraqi Parliament rejected a resolution that would allow the U.S. and other nations to conduct inspections of Iraq. The resolution was rejected by a vote of 151 to 17.

In September alone, about $106 million was pledged and donated to various parts of the UA, said Tom Sanders, Campaign Arizona executive director.

“September was the best (fundraising) month in the history of the university,” he said.

Last week, President Pete Lifkins announced that the university’s fundraising effort had amassed about $850 million in donations of the $1 billion hoped for. During the weekend, Lifkins’ Campaign Arizona leadership team met and considered increasing the goal or even shortening the timeline to raise those funds, said Dana Wier, spokesperson for the foundation.

“But now, with Gov. Jane Hull proposing an additional $17 million be removed from the university’s state funding to help combat a $1 billion deficit, Wier said the foundation is feeling the pain.

“We’re thrilled with the fundraising, and at the same time, it’s the grimmest economic period we’ve ever been through,” she said. “The budget is cutting back, we’re feeling the same ax (as other departments).

“The more than $16 million in cuts to the UA last year did not cripple fundraising. As of March, the campaign was 75 percent of the way to its goal, with only 65 percent of its timeline completed.

But with a 10 percent cut, the foundation may have to reduce the size or number of events it uses to build contacts and work with potential donors, Wier said. This budget reduction is nearly twice the size of those taken from colleges and departments last year.

“It is difficult to raise money if we’re not out with people. We’re trying to be creative, more efficient,” she said.

Instead of having the foundation take the lead in fundraising efforts, Wier said that the colleges and departments themselves become more responsible for Campaign Arizona’s success.

And some at the university are already doing that.

Teaming up, the College of Pharmacy and the Arizona Cancer Center convinced Proctor & Gamble to donate the...