Flores was known to be ‘on the edge’

By Devin Simmons
Staff Writer

Staff and faculty saw Robert S. Flores as a problem student for seven years before he killed three teachers and himself in October, but he remained a student in the nursing college despite academic problems and faculty complaints.

The UA recently released 331 pages dating back to 1995 that documented the nursing faculty’s interactions with Flores. One staff member wrote five years ago that she had a conversation with Flores where he appeared to be “clearly on the edge,” and spoke of killing himself.

Collete Pardee, then-director of the Office of Academic Services, wrote in a report of her conversation with Flores that he appeared to be in extreme stress from his marriage, family, full-time job, and full course load, and he spoke of killing himself. He refused to withdraw from school, where he struggled academically, was chronically absent and did not complete assignments, saying that leaving the nursing college would be “another form of death,” Pardee stated in the reports released last week.

In emails that nursing professor Cheryl McGaffic sent to assistant deans of student affairs for the college of nursing, Vickie Raylone before McGaffic was killed, McGaffic pushed college administrators to allow Flores to withdraw from her Ethics and the Health Care class after the class drop deadline. The administration had previously refused Flores’ request to be withdrawn from McGaffic’s class.

McGaffic told Flores that his behavior was unacceptable, to which he replied, “I am doing better than I used to, in the past I would have flushed someone’s head against a wall.”

A student encounter form filled out by McGaffic in March stated that Flores was disrespectful to several students in class, would not listen, walked out of group activities, interrupted others when they were talking, and was very confrontational.

But the spokesman for Arizona Health Sciences said medical staff could not have possibly known what Flores’ intentions were.

The problem with statements that were made by Flores is that nothing he said was a direct threat,” said George Likins, and prompted an apology by James Jarred, of the Jordan Construction Company, moves dirt yesterday at the construction site on North Park Avenue at East University Street that will be the future home of several academic programs, many of which are now located in the Franklin building.

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Biz college may add fee to keep top 25 ranking

By Keren G. Raz
Staff Writer

Business undergraduates may have to pay an additional $500 to major in business next year if the dean of the business college gets approval to charge business majors more tuition than undergraduate majors in other majors.

The Eller College of Business and Public Administration faces losing its accreditation as one of the top 25 business colleges in the country if it cannot replace 21 lost faculty members, said Mark Zupan, dean of the college.

A $500 fee for in-state students and a $1,600 fee for out-of-state students would generate the money needed to pay new faculty and save the college’s accreditation, Zupan added.

Zupan hopes to raise the business college’s tuition from $2,500 to $6,300 in coming years, which is the average cost of tuition for the top 20 public business schools in the United States.

The business college is not the only college considering raising its undergraduate tuition above that of their peers.