Grad students may quit over tuition hike

Administrators say increase is essential to the university’s future

BY KEDEN G. RAY
Staff Writer

Graduate students — many dressed in red to bring attention to their demands for better working conditions — warned administrators at yesterday’s Campus Town Hall on tuition that many of them may leave UA if the Arizona Board of Regents raises tuition.

President Pete Likins and Provost George Davis said that without a tuition increase, administrators would have to shut down one-third of the university.

The students said a tuition increase would take away money they need to pay bills.

The graduate student comments shifted the debate on tuition away from what has been a focus on resident undergraduate students.

Only a handful of graduate students sat in the crowd of 100 people in the Modern Languages auditorium yesterday.

Pete Morris, president of the graduate student professional council, said he is concerned the UA may lose many of its graduate students if the Regents raise tuition.

“Graduates are talking about leaving or taking a break,” he said after the town hall.

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The Regents are scheduled to set tuition for fall 2003 at an April meeting.

David Menchaca, a third-year English doctoral student, warned the administration that teaching assistants will leave if there is a significant tuition increase.

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