Lawmakers question tuition hike

By Cyndy Cole
LEGISLATIVE COORESPONDANT

PHOENIX — Two members of the Senate Education Committee balked at Regents’ proposals yesterday to increase resident undergraduate tuition by up to $1,000. Sens. Thayer Verschoor (R-Mesa area), said he was con-
cerned that raising tuition could mean a number of stu-
dents won’t be able to afford enrollment at UA.

“Are they just, as you said, going to have to hike the bullet … and deal with this huge increase? You’re talking
about a pretty significant increase,” he said.

Assistant Minority Leader Sen. Linda Aguirre (D-
southern Phoenix) said she was concerned that an
increase could make tuition unaffordable for students in
those in lower or middle income bracket who are barely mak-
ing ends meet but earning slightly too much to qualify for
financial aid.

“Minority communities panic when you talk about tax
hikes,” Aguirre said.

Though the Regents have plans to set aside 14 percent
of tuition to meet the needs of students dependent upon
financial aid, which is up from the 8 percent currently
withheld, no one answered questions from Verschoor and
Aguirre about how the universities planned to bridge the
gap between those in-state students who have just enough
income not to be eligible for financial aid and would struggle with a tuition hike.

Though the education committee does not set tuition at
UA, a job which is reserved for the Arizona Board of
Regents, the Arizona Legislature could alter UA’s budget
in response if there were a strong enough sentiment
from legislators about how the universities planned to bridge the
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Merger signals new direction

By Cyndy Cole
LEGISLATIVE COORESPONDANT

PHOENIX — President Pete Likins told the Senate
Committee on Education yesterday that he was con-
sidering shutting down the Extended University and
merging the department’s offerings with each indi-
vidual college on campus.

The Extended University offers computer-based
classes, summer, winter, evening and weekend classes,
certification programs and correspondence courses.

At Arizona State University, President Michael Crow is proposing similar measures, giving the col-
leges of engineering and business the option of run-
ning their own night, weekend and accelerated cours-
es to generate extra revenue.

Crow figures that some courses beyond under-
graduate education, such as professional degree pro-
grams like law, should be self-supporting and should
not rely on state funds, he told the education
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DEBATING IRAQ

Police estimate 2,000 anti-war protesters turned out Saturday

By Aaron Mackey
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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An anti-war protestor dressed as President George W. Bush
expresses his sentiment at a peace rally held at Old Main
Saturday. The event was the largest protest in Tucson history,
drawing 2,000 people.

Police estimate 2,000 anti-war protesters turned out Saturday

Gripping a microphone firmly in her hand, Sheila Bapat stood atop the steps of the fountain
at Old Main Saturday morning, challenging peo-
ple to peacefully protest the impending war with
Iraq.

Bapat, a political science senior and former
Wildcat columnist, joined thousands of others
together who gathered Saturday as part of an international peace rally and demon-
stration directed toward the U.S. government.

“Hopefully in demonstrating, we will bring to
light some of the critic’s goals,” Bapat said.

The local demonstration, sponsored by over
40 peace organizations, began at 9:31 a.m. when
protesters gathered near the fountain on the UA
Mall.

Protestors then proceeded to march along
Speedway Boulevard to DeAnza Park, located at
East Speedway Boulevard and North Stone
Avenue, holding banners and “No War” signs
with the hopes of raising awareness and encour-
aging those who had not yet joined the effort to
do so.

The turnout for the protest was estimated by
organizers to be 5,000 people, although the
Tucson Police Department estimated only 2,000,
which still exceeded the previous record for attendance of a protest in Tucson.

President of the Alliance for Peace and Justice
in the Middle East (APJME) Carrie Brown said
she hoped the event would send a message to the
Bush Administration that many Americans are
against a war with Iraq and worry that the pres-
ident is not rationally examining the reasons for
preemptively striking the country.

“I don’t think that Bush is looking at the big-
ger picture here,” said Stephanie Felix, a commu-
nications freshman.

However, members of the College
Republicans are ready to support the president
and his efforts to protect the U.S. from Iraq.

See PEACE9

Flandrau move could be complex

By Bob Purvis
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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With the future of the Flandrau Science Center now
resting on the shoulders of the City of Tucson, its sur-
vival is uncertain.

When President Pete Likins and Provost George Davis announced last week that 16 programs will face
mergers or elimination as part of the first phase of
Focused Excellence, many of those involved in the pro-
grams were shocked.

Flandrau, however, has seen this day coming for the past three years.

After voters passed Proposition 400 in 1999, which promotes tourism, the
Rio Nuevo downtown revi-
lution project has hoped to incorporate Flandrau as part of downtown Tucson’s
future.

Flandrau currently depends on $175,000 from
the College of Science, which it would lose as part of the

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See PEACE9

See FLANDRAU/12

See EXTENDED/9