200 people offer feedback about Focused Excellence

A diverse group of 200 people attended yesterday’s Campus Town Hall to express concerns to President Pete Likins and Provost George Davis about their proposed budget cuts and program eliminations.

Members of the School of Information Resources and Library Science were among those who showed up wearing colorful signs with messages such as “Get info! We need a library school!” to protest the cuts.

Lisa Winn, a SIRLS representative, expressed her concern over the possibility of eliminating one of the only library programs in the Western United States.

“If it wasn’t for libraries, there wouldn’t be a university,” she said. According to Winn, one in four librarians will retire in 2004, and she questioned who will run the libraries after that.

Davis recognized the critical shortage facing the field, but expressed a greater concern for the well-being of the entire university.

“To lose these programs keenly,” he said, adding that SIRLS is unique.

However, SIRLS supporter Lisa Bunker doesn’t think that self-sufficiency would save the school, either.

“No one would do this,” Bunker said, referring to the university unnecessarily,” Bunker said.

Likins commended SIRLS for their attempts to save the school, but said it would take more than that.

“We need not slogans, but a plan,” he said.

SIRLS had hoped the legislature would support the University in maintaining a place on campus for the school, but possibilities of that, he said, seem slim.

Each change brings the UA closer to a position to recognize our potential,” Likins said. He emphasized the need to achieve excellence, a comment that received applause from Davis.

“We’re daring to change this institution,” Davis said. “To achieve that level of excellence takes investment.”

However, representatives from the SIRLS received applause from Davis.

The next town hall will be held Thursday on Health and Consumer Sciences.

PHOENIX — The UA and Arizona Health Sciences Center would lose $35.2 million more in state funding between this academic year and next under a budget-balancing proposal state lawmakers released yesterday.

Under the proposal, the university and the AHSC would lose $15.8 million in state funding by July and an additional $19.4 million next year as legislators try to fill what is now projected to be a $1.3 billion gap between state revenues and expenditures.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Burns (R-Sac City) said the universities and other agencies funded partially on state dollars can cope with cuts by moving money around, using federal dollars and other revenue sources.

But more cuts, especially of the magnitude proposed yesterday, would mean trouble, said UA lobbyist Greg Fahey.

The latest cuts pile on top of the $45 million UA has lost in state funding during the past two years.

“This faculty will leave. They will despair ... This is a very significant amount of further damage,” Fahey said.

The timing would be problematic if UA has to face a big cut by July 1, Fahey said. It would give the UA hardly any time to find places to cut and employees to fire, Fahey said.

Members of the School of Information Resources and Library Science marched through campus yesterday to protest President Pete Likins’ proposal to eliminate the school.

Should admissions standards be raised? PAGE 5 | PAGE 11 Softball team anxious to prove its talent

Wednesday, January 28, 2003

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By Cyndy Cole

LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

SAHARA/9

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Basketball team denies vandalism

Players accused of robbing Kansas vending machine

By Joshua Sills

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Saturday afternoon the Wildcats men’s basketball team stole the game from the Kansas Jayhawks, coming back to win by 17, but now the hotel they were staying at has accused some of them of stealing more than just a win.

Lawrence police responded to a call from the Marriott Spring Hill Suites in Lawrence, Kan., on Saturday after a hotel guest allegedly saw three UA basketball players stealing 80 candy bars and less than $150 in cash from the hotel vending machine.

“Sahara would be a huge problem and an incredible negative for our neighborhood,” said Barbara Bedy, president of the Dunbar Springs Neighborhood Association.

Bedy cited the opening of Estrella Real, a student apartment complex built just south of Sahara on Stone Avenue, as an example of such problems.

“Aher they opened, we had students throwing up in our front yards and beer cans everywhere,” she said.

“There is a legitimate fear in the neighborhood,” said Paul Buckwalter, another Dunbar Springs resident.

“The developer has not written any rules or regulations yet, and that makes the neighborhood very nervous.”

Buckwalter added that he doesn’t have anything against students, in general, but he still doesn’t want Sahara to become a student housing complex.

Carpenter Joshua Morgan works inside the old Sahara Motel Monday afternoon. The Sahara, located on North Stone Avenue, is slated to become private dorms for UA and Pima students.