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Campus fights change

200 people offer feedback about Focused Excellence

By Tacie Holyoak
STAFF WRITER

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 waving colorful signs with messages such as "Got info? We need a library school!" to protest the cuts.

Linda Winn, a SIRLS representative, expressed her concerns 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.

"We feel those pressures keenly," he said, adding that SIRLS is unique.

We want to "put SIRLS back on its feet without ripping funds away from something else," Likins said.

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

"To eliminate this school would cripple the University unnecessarily," Bunker said.

MARK IT

Town Hall
The next town Hall will be held on Feb. 4. Thoughts and concerns can be sent to focused@email.arizona.edu



DAVID HARDEN/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Members of the School of Information Resources and Library Science marched through campus yesterday to protest President Pete Likins' proposal to eliminate the school.

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 assist 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

See TOWN HALL/3

\$35.2M cut to UA proposed by state

Move would restrict hiring and cut employee benefits, including retirement plans

By Cyndy Cole
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

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-Sun 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

See REPUBLICANS/10

Basketball team denies vandalism

Players accused of robbing Kansas vending machine

By Joshua Sills
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Saturday afternoon the Wildcat 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

See VANDALISM/9

Sahara renovation angers neighbors

By Bob Purvis
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A local developer's plan to turn an old motel into student housing has some members of a historic downtown neighborhood saying, "There goes the neighborhood."

Residents of the Dunbar Springs neighborhood say that turning the Sahara Motor Inn, 919 N. Stone Ave., into the city's first privately-owned undergraduate dormitory will bring crime, noise and traffic into their backyards.

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

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

"After 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.

See SAHARA/9



EMILY REID/Arizona Daily Wildcat
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.