Likins: Up tuition by $1,000

By Keren G. Raz & Jeff Sklar
CAMPUS EDITOR & SENIOR WRITER

Administrators have decided to request the biggest tuition increase in UA history. Late last night President Pete Likins confirmed that he will request a $1,000 tuition increase for in-state undergraduates, a $1,250 increase for out-of-state graduate students, and a $1,500 increase for out-of-state undergraduate students. The announcement will come out this morning, with few surprises, Likins said.

“Specifically, all graduate (teaching assistants) and all in-state graduate students, and a $1,500 increase for out-of-state graduate students.”

In-state undergraduate tuition would increase by $1,000.

Out-of-state undergraduate tuition would increase by $1,250.

In-state graduate tuition would increase by $1,250; out-of-state by $1,500.

Likins has wanted UA’s tuition to rise from the lowest in the country to the top of the bottom one-third percentile. A $1,000 increase will immediately achieve Likins’ goal.

Although the Arizona Board of Regents won’t officially set tuition until its March 6 — 7 meeting, many regents have already voiced support for a $1,000 increase, provided financial aid.

As part of Likins’ tuition proposal, he said that at least 50 percent of revenue from a $1,000 increase, provided financial aid, is also increased.

But selling UA residence halls would be problematic because they wouldn’t be worth enough, would raise legal questions and aren’t paid off, according to legal council for the Board of Regents and the universities.

Revenues for pretty much everything on campus have been pledged to the bondholders,” said Tim Pickrell, a Snell and Wilmer attorney who advises UA on bonding issues.

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Campus statues meant to expose students to artistic environment

By Bob Purvis
STAFF WRITER

You pass it every day on your way to class. You sit on it during lunch break. You may hang your coat on it, and if you’re like most students, you stare at it and wonder what the heck it is.

It’s campus art, and there are more than 30 pieces located across the university grounds.

Prices of these art pieces range from $2,000 to nearly $100,000.

Some works are more traditional, like the bust in front of McKale Center of John Batton Salmon, the player who coined the phrase “Bear Down.” Others take on a more abstract look like “Curving Arcades,” the giant red and blue steel arches dotting the entrance to the university off of North Campbell Avenue.

The Public Art Committee, a group composed of staff, faculty and community members, takes careful consideration in acquiring art that they say not only adds to the overall aesthetic of the campus but also gives students their only regular exposure to art.

“For many students, this is the only art they ever see,” said Richard Schaffer, UA Museum of Art Registrar.

“...it’s good art, it stimulates wonder and thought.”

Money for campus art is generated by a fund that sets aside 5 percent of the cost of every major construction project at the UA.

In the past this money was required to be spent on the construction site that generated the money, but currently a campus art fund was created that allows the committee to pool the money for larger projects.

The committee selects art based upon how it works in a given environment, taking issues like health and safety into account.

“...we look at where people gather and try to enhance the artistic quality of the university itself,” said Charles Guerin, president of the Committee for Public Art.

Residence halls not for sale

By Cyndy Cole
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX — State legislators said Friday that it’s unlikely they will try to sell and lease back UA residence halls to help solve a $1.3 billion state deficit.

Legislators are considering selling and leasing back state assets, like prisons and dorms, to pay for state-based programs like health care and education this year.

“The sale of residence halls is not a priority,” said Sen. Roy Romer, D-Phoenix, who also chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee.

A group of Tucson girls gets the attention of the Girls Gone Wild camera inside the company’s tour bus outside of Maloney’s and 8 Trax on North Fourth Avenue Friday night. Girls Gone Wild, which makes voyeuristic videos, made its way through Tucson over the weekend as part of a nationwide tour to promote its videos and other products.

A proposed $28 million increase in tuition revenue, financial aid, will go toward the financial aid. With a projected $28 million increase in tuition revenue, Likins plans to put $14 million of that toward financial aid, but not all students will benefit.

“Specifically, all graduate (teaching assistants) and all resident undergraduates with Pell grants not met by cash will be spared any net increase in tuition payments,” he said.

“Others will be helped as well, but not entirely on whether anything should be done with the residence halls, two of the committee members questioned whether selling the dorms would bring in enough money to help address the budget shortfall.

“It just doesn’t look like a very viable option at this point,” said Sen. Robert Burns, R-Phoenix, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Another member on the committee concurred.

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