Regents want aid, legislators say no funds

By Jeff Sklar

Senior Writer

More state support for financial aid would help keep universities affordable, UA administrators and regents say, but some legislators warn the money isn't likely to come soon.

Still, lobbying lawmakers to increase the amount of financial aid coming directly from taxpayers plays a prominent role in a preliminary proposal asking the Legislature to reconsider how it funds universities.

In the draft regents will discuss this week, the universities call for an increased taxpayer contribution to a fund that generates about $1 million per year in aid for UA students.

The proposal also asks lawmakers to reward the UA for meeting performance incentives and offer funding that more accurately reflects the challenges faced by each university.

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