Regents approve $490 tuition hike

Nonresident tuition increased by $700

By Jeff Sklar

Arizona residents will pay another $400 in tuition next year, and nonresidents will see their bills rise by $700.

The Arizona Board of Regents approved those increases, which were proposed by President Peter Likins, by an 8-1 vote yesterday. In doing so, they rejected a student lobbyist proposal asking for a $400 increase for residents.

The regents also approved a $25 fee for all resident undergraduate applicants, a move that should raise a little more than $250,000 to assist in student recruitment.

The tuition hike marked the second year in a row that the cost of a UA education has been raised at unprecedented rates, and will prop tuition to $T in the country among comparable public universities, based on rates for this school year.

"I do believe we're doing the right thing," Likins said. "We've reprioritized the university … and I think frankly, we're long overdue."

This year's increase and last year's $1,000 hike wouldn't have been necessary, he said, had tuition been raised more gradually over the years and had state funding not shrunk to levels that forced the university to cut classes and lay off workers.

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The pool of money set aside for financial aid will grow, and resident undergraduate Pell Grant recipients, who are federal-defined as the university's neediest students, will likely be used to cover costs like faculty salaries and class availability, in addition to financial aid.

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