

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

wildcat.arizona.edu

Monday, April 5, 2004

The University of Arizona, Tucson

Voting begins today on activity fee

Fee faces time crunch if OK'd by students

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

If students pass the proposed \$30 per year student activity fee this week, fee organizers still have to fight time constraints and overcome logistical hurdles before it can be finalized.

Student leaders, who are waiting for election results to come in before making any concrete plans, have yet to develop a timeline for how the fee would be implemented.

"I'm going to be honest: A real defined timeline is not in place yet," said Associated Students of the University of Arizona Sen. Nick Bajema, who worked on the fee proposal. "But we know what needs to get done."

If the Arizona Board of Regents approves the fee April 29, fee organizers will have less than three months to implement the fee before students receive their tuition bills July 14.

In that time, fee organizers have to assemble a Student Activity Fee Committee, select three students at large, establish the role of the committee, hold budget discussions with the Budget Office, choose a refund policy and talk to the Bursar's Office.

All this would have to be done in the midst of finals, commencement celebrations and a transition of power in student government.

Both the budget director and Bursar's Office representatives said last week that those proposing the fee had yet to contact them.

Bajema said student leaders haven't discussed the fee with the Bursar's Office or the Budget Office because Melissa Vito, dean of students, said she would take care of the details.

But Vito said it would be up to the newly appointed Student Activity Fee Committee to figure out logistics with the Bursar's Office.

"We have looked at what processes are available," Vito said. "But we thought it

See TIME LINE/10



Photos by ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If passed, the \$15 student activity fee would help fund on-campus concerts and multicultural events, bring speakers to the UA and pay for movies at Gallagher Theater. Online voting runs today until Wednesday.

Benedict: Fee details unimportant for voting

By Aaron Mackey
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Student leaders defended their decision to put the \$30 per year activity fee on the ballot today, just five days after ASUA Senate approval, saying students don't need to know details of the fee to make an educated decision.

"A student will generally be in favor or not in favor initially. Students aren't going to need days and days to figure this out," said J.P. Benedict, president of the Associated Students of the University of Arizona.

All that students need to know about the refundable fee, which is on a special elections ballot today through Wednesday, is that it would generate an estimated \$1.2 million to \$1.4 million annually and bring big-name concerts and speakers to campus, Benedict said.

Because it is impossible to reach out to every student on campus, Greg Billings, president of the University Activities Board, said those behind the fee chose to target clubs and greek life because they are already involved on campus and most likely to benefit from the fee.

Mike Dickerson, a mechanical engineering freshman, said he wants to learn more about the fee and doesn't think student leaders should single out clubs.

"It seems like they should treat everyone the same," Dickerson said. "Singling them out doesn't seem fair."

But Benedict said the majority of students don't need any more information because the main question students should be asking themselves as they head to the polls today through Wednesday is, "Do

See FEE/9

Club leaders skeptical about fee

By Dana Crudo
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Presidents of clubs and organizations, who activity fee supporters say would benefit from the funding, said they stand against the fee because they don't believe they'll ever see the money.

According to members of the Collaboration Board, clubs and organizations could benefit from the \$15 per semester fee because 15 percent of the funds would be allocated to clubs that want to put on events that would benefit the student body.

But Dan McGuire, president of Phi Alpha

Delta pre-law fraternity, said that is misleading because money would only be given to certain types of clubs.

He said his club would not receive money because it is a pre-law organization and doesn't appeal to the whole student body.

McGuire said the fee would only increase funding for clubs that already have a lot of money.

"There is so much waste in ASUA," he said.

Mohammed Abdelwahab, Muslim Students Association treasurer, also said he wouldn't request funding from the Student

See ACTIVITY/9



CHRIS CODUTO/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Dr. Keith Joiner, dean of the College of Medicine, explains his vision for the medical college, hoping to expand its clinical, educational and research missions.

New medical dean wants college to grow

By Jessica Lee
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Dr. Keith Joiner can't stop smiling after one month as the dean of the College of Medicine.

"I love this job. I keep telling people, 'You can't wipe the smile off of my face,'" said Joiner, who left behind Yale University's Investigative Medicine Program to come to Arizona.

Joiner's vision for the College of Medicine is illustrated by the construction of a medical research complex north of East Speedway Boulevard.

"The simplest way to put

that is that (the College of Medicine) needs to grow," Joiner said. "It needs to grow to meet the clinical mission, the educational mission and the research mission. We just aren't big enough. We can't grow without having more space."

The space issue is slowly being overcome with the construction of the new medical research complex, which will house the Institute for Biomedical Science and Biotechnology, Drachman Hall and another medical research building.

As the buildings go up, Joiner is expected to improve communication between the university and the biosciences.

"While we can talk about

collaborative interactions, if the campuses are physically separated, it will always be harder than if there are physical buildings that are there starting to bridge the gap between people from both sides of campuses working side by side," Joiner said.

With a background in clinical medicine, research, administration and business, Joiner said working with Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap is a top priority.

In recent years, the Arizona Board of Regents, the state and various university programs have united with private industry to encourage the growth of biotechnology in Arizona.

"(Research) is very vigor-

ating challenge. A lot of the entities that are identified as priority items (in the Roadmap) are exactly the things we are either good at here or we certainly want to expand. Cancer therapeutics, neurosciences and biomedical engineering stand out as the main ones," Joiner said.

Beyond the intellectual gain that will come with research, it's anticipated that the biotech field will bring the state money and jobs.

Beneath the plan to expand the research activities lies Joiner's initiative to improve the education medical students receive.

See MEDICAL/12

Campus celebrates cultural diversity

PAGE 15

Déjà vu all over again for Cats

PAGE 17

Softball rallies to beat UCLA in bottom of 7th — twice



UA releases names of 4 illegal downloaders

PAGE 3