

Minimum salary to increase 30 cents

By Andrea Kelly
STAFF WRITER

The UA will invest nearly \$300,000 this year to increase its lowest-paid employees' salaries from \$8.20 to \$8.50 per hour, according to a document released late yesterday afternoon by President Peter Likins and Provost George Davis.

The raises will be coupled with a \$4.8 million annual allocation that will increase salaries of faculty, staff and academic professionals across the university.

Jerrold Hogle, distinguished professor of English and chair of the Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Council, said that this plan is intended to reduce the university's dependency on the state.

The announcement of the funding plan says the money will "supplement the state-appropriated salary package," which means that no matter what the state provides to the university for salaries in the future, administrators plan to have money set aside for use on salary increases if necessary. One of the plan's goals is to prevent some of the emergency salary increases that occur in the middle of the semester as an effort to keep a staff or faculty member.

The document released yesterday elaborates on one of five steps announced Friday to help reduce brain drain, the exodus of faculty from the UA to higher-paying universities. Administrators estimate the UA needs \$64 million to make its employees' salaries competitive in the market.

Friday's announcement detailed plans for requesting \$15 million from the state budget for faculty retention.

The increase in university minimum wage for the lowest-paid staff positions

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BATTLE BEGINS



CLAIRE C. LAURENCE/Arizona Daily Wildcat
The Sarcastic Atoms' bass player, Alan Thorsness, placates the crowd "to big up the noise" along with keyboardist Josh Lamoreaux (not pictured) during the Battle of the Bands first round of play yesterday evening on the Mall. When asked about the contest, Lamoreaux explained that "it's not about winning, it's about making love to our instruments in front of everybody." The semifinals resume tomorrow on the Mall from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The contest culminates in a final battle on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Campus license plates stolen

Plate thefts become increasing problem in campus lots, garages

By Ty Young
SENIOR WRITER

When Adrian Ewing went to the Tyndall Garage on Sept. 13 and saw a ticket on his car window and a boot on the back tire, he couldn't help but feel relieved.

Just minutes before, his mother had left a message on his cell phone saying that the police had found Ewing's 1992 Honda Accord earlier that day with smashed windows and slashed tires. Ewing, who was in class at the time, was shocked to hear the messages and went directly to his car.

Although everything on his car was intact, he did notice that one thing was different.

Somebody had replaced his license plate with another, which turned out to be from a 1992 Honda Accord reported stolen on Sept. 8.

"I was scared," Ewing, an undeclared freshman, said. "I thought my car was stolen and busted up. I was more relieved when I saw somebody else's plate on it."

This was the third reported license plate theft in the past two weeks. A plate was stolen from a Jeep Laredo parked at the Main Library on Sept. 15 and another was stolen from a UA service vehicle on Sept. 10.

Sgt. Eugene Mejia, UAPD spokesman, said

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Showtime documents UA freshman experiences

Lights, camera and plenty of freshman action in TV series

By Julie Wetmore
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ah, freshman year ... hitting the books — and hitting the airwaves.

"Freshman Diaries," a 12-part series documenting the trials and triumphs of freshmen experiencing their first year of college, is being filmed on the UA campus. And organizers are looking for freshmen to participate, said the project's executive producer R.J. Cutler.

Cutler, an Academy Award nominee, is the executive producer of Actual Reality TV and creator of "American High," "The War Room" and "Military Diaries."

More than 250 applications, from a base of nearly 6,000 freshmen at

the UA, have been turned in so far. Project organizers expect roughly 500 students to apply, Cutler said.

The project is looking for only 10-15 participants, but this number may vary throughout the course of the year.

"This number problem is a conundrum for documentary filmmakers. It's not our job to tell a comprehensive story about everyone," Cutler said. "I feel a dozen kids provide a really good cross-section."

"Freshman Diaries" gives students an opportunity to explore the arts, interact with working professionals, have their first year recorded, and gain experience in documentaries, Cutler said.

All the selected students are given a digital video camera and will undergo a weekly instruction class focused on creating video diaries.

"The project is looking for all ages, gender, race, diversity, socio-

economic backgrounds and sexual orientations," Carol Thompson, senior associate dean of students, said.

Cutler approached the UA with the project more than a year ago.

After showing a tape of the first series, filmed at the University of Texas in Austin last year, and speaking with an ASUA representative, student senators and other administration officials, everyone approved, said Thompson.

"I attended a freshman class council meeting last week, and there seemed to be a large amount of interest from that group," said J.P. Benedict, student body president.

The UA is approached many times throughout the year to participate in documentary films, Thompson said.

"The quality of work and reputation of Cutler's company are what

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MICHAEL GIDALY/Arizona Daily Wildcat
The "Freshman Diaries" documentary crew follows a possible candidate filming a typical day as a freshman yesterday. If chosen, her life will be documented for a semester, as part of a 12-part series to be aired on Showtime.