Heat wave keeps students sweating

By Nathan Tafoya

Students might find themselves in the middle of their midterms, but they’re sweating about more than their exams. Yesterday, the Old Pueblo tied its 1899 record of 96 degrees as it continued to take a beating from a heat wave, which has suffocated the Southwest. Pamela Wallack, a meteorologist intern at Tucson’s National Weather Service Forecast Office, said the heat wave is a result of a high pressure system, drawing warmer temperatures away from the Pacific Ocean and into southern Arizona. Most students took refuge in the shade, yesterday afternoon as they waited for their rides to pick them up, or as they made phone calls. Well, most of them.

“July is always a tough time,” said Ph.D. student Zakkind, a human rights and sustainable development junior, who was studying outside the library near the Science and Engineering Library. “You can’t study here, you can’t study there, you can’t study anywhere.”

This summer is the first summer...we’ve stepped off the cliff of global warming,” he said.

He said the heat has contributed to the death of his runny nose, which he attributes to the heat.

Faculty focuses on ‘Excellence’

By Andrea Wente

Starting today, faculty will have a chance to weigh in on plans for Focused Excellence. The Earth Sciences and Environmental Programs study team will meet at noon in the Agave Room on the fourth floor of the Student Union Memorial Center to discuss how programs related to earth science and environmentalism can improve by combining their efforts.

All interested faculty are invited to join the meeting and are encouraged to come with suggestions for their team to consider in their proposal to administrators.

As part of Focused Excellence, President Peter Likins and Provost George Davis formed the ESEP administration committee, which is composed of the UA’s top officials, think tank for the UA to develop a plan to restructure the university. "The whole purpose is to solicit input from administrators," said Barbara Hoffman, director of the Digital Media Resource Center.

Although the Zone is finally opening, it is not as equipped as originally planned with only eight workstations instead of 40, another product of budget cuts.

As stated in a finance committee document obtained by the Wildcat, "Without such funding, the UA cannot compete with its peers nor achieve its vision ‘to be a preeminent, student-centered research university.’"

Approximately 67 percent of all public colleges and universities have implemented a technology fee, ranging from $45 to $422, according to a report published in 2002 by Educause, a nonprofit organization that focuses on higher education technology.

Before a decision is made, President Peter Likins requested an analysis of what the fee would entail and how much it would cost each student, Hoffman said. "I don’t believe that (Likins) is specifically in favor of the technology fee, but he wants to know more," Hoffman said.

Likins was unavailable for comment.

No direct technology fees have been implemented in the past and a separate technology fee is unlikely, said Richard Kroc, director of assessment and enrollment research and a staff member on thefinance committee.

"There was a strong sentiment that we ought to have fees for every student," Kroc said. "Instead, if we need more money for technology, we would get it from a general raise in tuition.

Before any decision is made, student sentiment will be considered, Hoffman said.

"I think that keeping technology updated in the classroom is very important for students," student body President J.P. Benedict said. "I have yet to decide if the fee should be applied, but it is important that students can come to campus to get their studies done."

STAFF WRITER

WHAT OTHER SCHOOLS PAY

University Fee Residential tuition Non-residential tuition

Iowa $188 $4,993 $14,634
Michigan $60 $8,481 $25,647
UNC $303 $4,072 $15,920
Texas A&M $422 $5,051 $16,581
Virginia $45 $6,149 $22,169

A technology fee could be used by students as they waited for their rides to beat the heat with a cool smoothie. Employee Prasanna Adavi services the head of a long line of thirsty students trying to beat the heat with a cool smoothie.