

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

wildcat.arizona.edu

Thursday, January 15, 2004

The University of Arizona, Tucson

Bill would fire faculty felons

By Bob Purvis
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX — A state legislator from Gilbert has proposed legislation to mandate that university faculty members convicted of certain felony crimes be fired without benefits, as well as tighten the criminal screening process for incoming employees.

The bills' sponsor, Republican Rep. Andy Biggs, said people should "worry" about the Arizona Board of Regents current employment policies,

which don't ban violent felons from holding university jobs and leave screening to the discretion of the university.

"I think it's important that we be aware of these things. If we have someone who poses a threat to the university, that needs to be addressed," Biggs said.

The bill that relates to terminating the employment of felons orders the immediate firing of faculty convicted of felony counts of sexual offense, kidnapping, murder, assault,

burglary, sexually exploiting a child or stalking.

Human resources officials say the cost of running background checks on the approximately 3,000 faculty and administrators that would be affected by the bill could cost \$150,000 to \$225,000.

"It would be a very difficult law for us to implement," said Cathy Nicholson, director of institutional relations for the human resources department. "It would be hugely

See FELONS/3

UA hopes to benefit from Bush space plan

By Jessica Lee
STAFF WRITER

UA researchers are hoping they can cash in on President Bush's new space initiative that aims to establish a base on the moon and send people to Mars.

Scientists across campus said yesterday that Bush's vision for human exploration in outer space could generate research grants for a variety of campus departments.

"This plan will be very positive for the UA. We are well-positioned in a number of fields. We have experts on both the moon and Mars, and have had a larger role in planning moon and Mars activities," said Michael Drake, director of the UA Lunar and Planetary Laboratory.

Researchers at the UA have already gotten involved in space exploration. In March 2001, they helped find water on Mars. Over the summer, NASA awarded the UA its largest grant ever, \$325 million, to help search for life on Mars.

Drake said he expects research and funding to flow not only to planetary and lunar sciences but also to other departments.

For example, establishing permanency in space will require research in the College of Medicine in order to learn how to keep humans healthy in a

See MARS/9

MAXIMUM CAPACITY



JACOB KONST/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Pre-business sophomore David Heim takes to the floor of adjunct professor Christine Dykgraaf's Middle Eastern Humanities class in hopes of one day gaining a seat. Many students are in a crunch for getting the classes they need.

Students continue to fight for classes

By Alexandria Blute
STAFF WRITER

Students are still struggling to get into the classes they need even though the Legislature has stopped cutting the university budget, allowing departments to add more classes.

When registration began last semester, there were 5,598 courses offered, 62 more classes than the 5,536 courses offered in the fall.

Yet students still haven't been able to register for the courses they need.

Students who were unable to find a seat in Christine Dykgraaf's gen ed class yesterday sat in the aisles and stood around the perimeter of the room, hoping to add the class.

The scene in Dykgraaf's TRAD 101: Middle Eastern Humanities class is commonplace since the Legislature cut the university budget by more than \$40 million from 2000 to 2002.

Dykgraaf, an adjunct professor for the Near Eastern studies department, said that many classes are so popular that professors are also struggling to accommodate students in classrooms filled to

capacity and beyond.

David Cox, senior associate to the provost for curriculum and institutional budgeting, said that despite student complaints, some gen ed classes were still available in the days approaching the spring semester.

But students who were looking to complete their Tier One and Two gen ed requirements said they were having a hard time finding a spot in TRAD, INDV and NATS classes.

"It's really frustrating for us students who are supposed to follow a four-year plan (to graduate), and because of the lack of classes you can't really follow it," said Corianne Canton, a veterinary science freshman.

"I couldn't get into the bio class I needed," Canton said, adding that she might be forced to take a 400-level class that she is unprepared for in order to graduate on time.

Terry Thure, the assistant director for academic student affairs in the College of Fine Arts, said that while some students in the department have not been able to find classes in the past, priority registration has ensured that most majors in the college get into the classes they need.

"Most of our students have a full load, and those who took advantage of priority registration got more of the classes they wanted," Thure said.

Communication majors have also been able to get the classes they need to graduate through priority registration, said Chris Segrin, head of the communication department.

"Prerequisites protect seats for those in upper-division classes, but sadly, it comes at a price for nonmajors," Segrin said.

Some students were upset that seats were unavailable in many upper-level classes shortly after priority registration began late last year.

Anne Mead, an architecture junior, said that even though the School of Architecture reserves upper-level classes for its majors, she still had difficulty getting a seat in classes taught by other departments.

Thure said that the UA would like to create an ideal schedule for every student. But with the financial crisis the UA has faced in recent years and continued lack of funding, Thure said such a situation is unlikely in the near or distant future.

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

UA, Pima team up for simultaneous enrollment program

A new program that will allow students to enroll at the UA while taking classes exclusively at Pima Community College could encourage more minority students to complete a four-year degree, UA and Pima officials hope.

The joint admissions program, announced over winter break and scheduled to take effect in the fall, will allow students to enroll simultaneously at the UA and PCC even if they aren't taking classes at the university.

Both UA President Peter Likins and PCC Chancellor Roy Flores said this new connection between the two schools would encourage students who might otherwise be intimidated by the university to gradually adjust to the large-school environment.

"The idea is to set up a situation so that students will have more ways of getting a four-year degree from the university," Flores said. "They will be a UA student on the very first day."

Flores cited minority and rural students as people who are frequently deterred from applying to a university, often because of its size and what they perceive as an intimidating atmosphere.

"A lot of students are not ready at the outset for a

See PIMA/10