Students continue to fight for classes

By Alexandra Blute

Students are still struggling to get into the classes they need even though the Legislature has stopped cutting the university budget by more than $40 million from 2000 to 2002.

When registration began last semester, there were 5,536 courses offered, 62 more courses 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.

"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 communications department.

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

"I couldn’t get into the bio class I needed," Canten 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.

"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.

"It would be a very difficult law for us to implement," said Cathy Dynieszke, head of human resources for the human resources department at the university.

The bill that relates to terminating employment for the approximately 3,000 faculty and adminstrators who would be affected by the bill could cost $150,000 to $225,000.

"If 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