Likins to release tuition plan today

By Jeff Sklar

$500 hike likely for in-state undergrads; student lobbyists to propose less tuition increase

The proposal will include recommendations for non-resident and graduate tuition, though Likins has declined to release those numbers before today. If proposed and approved, the $500 hike would raise resident undergraduate tuition to $4,008. Likins announced the $500 proposal over winter break, but wouldn’t say Friday how large an increase he would propose for nonresidents and graduate students.

Last year, when he called for a $1,000 resident undergraduate increase, Likins asked for a $1,250 increase for nonresident undergraduates and resident graduate students, and a $500 increase for out-of-state graduate students. Student lobbyists today will also release their tuition counter-proposal, and though they wouldn’t say yesterday what it would be, they promised a lower number than $500. They hope their proposal would lay the foundation for a more gradual series of tuition increases that would put less of an immediate stress on students’ pocketbooks.

“We didn’t want to overburden the students this year,” said lobbyist Nick Green. Likins’ proposal would drive the UA’s tuition to the 33rd percent nationally, a benchmark he’d like to see the university keep pace with in the future. He thinks that level is fair because it’s still below average, though not so low that it unreasonably limits income.

But in a meeting with Wildcat staff Friday, Likins also said he wasn’t overly concerned whether the board of regents accepts his $500 proposal this year, saying he’s far more concerned about reaching that level.

Legislators want to push back last call

By Bob Purvis

PHOENIX — Waking up for class might be a little harder next year if a group of state legislators succeed in pushing back bar closing time.

With the support of 36 Republican and Democratic legislators, it looks as though a bill that would push last call to 2 a.m., and closing time to 3 a.m., might have enough kick to make it to the governor’s desk.

The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Michele Reagan, R-Scottsdale, said the current 1 a.m. cutoff is “goofy.”

Reagan said extending the bar time could help bolster Arizona’s tourist economy, which has lost large business conventions to nearby states with later last calls.

“We have actually heard people say, ‘You know we love Arizona, but it just doesn’t have the entertainment,’” Reagan said.

Of the 50 largest cities in the United States, only Tucson, Phoenix, Mesa and Omaha have a 1 a.m. last call. Last call is currently at 1 a.m. and closing time is at 1:15 a.m. Giving patrons more time between last call and closing time will actually decrease the number of drunk drivers by giving them time to sober up.

Bid-bashers concerned about police presence

By Holly Wells

Although bid night went off Friday without any major police busts, the memories of last semester’s underage drinking raids had partygoers more afraid of police than in previous years.

Bid nights are celebrations for UA recruits National Merit Scholars

By Andrea Kelly

The number of National Merit Scholars at the UA has decreased over the past three years, and to reverse that trend, the UA is stepping up its recruitment efforts.

UA officials flew in 19 National Merit Scholars from Western states Thursday and Friday to entice them to enroll at the UA.

The 19 students who flew to Tucson Thursday morning were treated to a lunch with administrators and honors students, a campus tour and an informational meeting about the Honors College.

The scholars also spent some time at the club fair on the UA Mall, ate pizza while listening to the pep band in Wilbur’s Underground during the basketball game, and

Prison hostage standoff ends peacefully

Standing Pats

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Opera contest takes center stage