Students ask for ASA buck back

By Melissa Wirkus
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UA graduate students want the $1 fee they pay each semester to fund the Arizona Students Association back because they say student lobbyists aren't representing them.

"We are requesting our money back because we just don't feel like the representation is here this year," said Jani Radebaugh, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Council. "We are not being represented." There are four positions on ASA open to UA students. One is reserved for the student body president, and the other three are open to graduates and undergraduates.

This year, all the student lobbyists are graduates.

The GPSC feels ASA needs to have a representative who is well informed on graduate issues and is a graduate student. Radebaugh said. But Alistair Chapman, ASA director, said graduate students showed little interest in the position.

"Graduate students are welcome to apply for any appointed position," Chapman said. "We want to increase graduate representation, but we just never get any response from them." The ASA is a statewide, student-run lobby group that works with the Arizona Board of Regents and advises student on financial and academic issues.

Each semester, the ASA collects $1 from all students to facilitate the cost of lobbying. Radebaugh said there have been problems advertising the positions to graduate students.

"It is hard to get information to grad students," said Radebaugh. "We just don't feel like the representation is here this year. We aren't being represented.

\[See GRADS/7\]

Meningitis registration could cost UA $40,000

By Bob Purvis
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX — Health officials at the UA say legislation requiring dorm residents to disclose whether they've been treated for meningitis, a potentially fatal disease, would cost the school nearly $40,000, and do little to curb the disease's occurrence.

The only group that stands to benefit from the bill is Arizona's prisons, the company that manufactures the vaccine and is a client of lobbyist pushing the bill, said Dr. Harry McDermott, director of UA Campus Health and Wellness Services.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Carolyn Allen, R-Scottsdale, would require the three state universities to distribute information on the risks associated with meningococcal disease, or bacterial meningitis, and the effectiveness and availability of vaccines for the disease, which the UA already does.

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"It should not be a permanent barrier to the eventual education of the student," Rep. Jim Kolbe, D-Ariz., disagreed with Grijalva.

"I believe that financial aid should be limited to those who have complied with the law," he said.

In addition to barring students from financial aid, the bill requires convicted offenders to notify their financial aid advisors and pay back any money they received.

Jane Glickman, an official from the Department of Education, said the law is being enforced.

"If the student to the answer the form," she said, adding that the law does not bar students from receiving state or school aid.

As of August 2003, the Department of Education reports that 209,838 students nationwide have lost financial aid.

Glickman said even with those statistics, it's hard to pinpoint the exact number of students who were reduced a bill that would nullify the law.


"No one wants to condone drug use, but the conviction and record are enough punishment," he said. "It should not be a permanent barrier to the eventual education of the student."