Officials: Keep UA buildings alcohol-free

By Jessica Lee

Although no policy forbids the Office of International Student Programs and Services from keeping alcohol in its building, UA officials are advising university departments and programs to not use building space to store alcohol. Administrators are asking faculty and staff to use common sense.

“They should use good judgment and good principles because you don’t use your agency or department on state property for (alcohol) storage,” said Saudora Taylor, executive vice president for Campus Life. “I would certainly want every department on campus to be very careful about what is stored that could be misused or abused.”

Debate ensue last week when Ranya Hafez, office specialist for ISPS, claimed she was fired after reporting to Provost George Davis that the office had been storing alcohol in an adviser’s closet for nearly two months. Hafez said the alcohol was accessible to undergraduate student employees in the office, and she figured it was against UA policy to keep the cases of beer and wine in an unlocked closet.

Joanne Lagasse-Long, director of ISPS, said the provost had told her there was no policy against storing alcohol in the building.

After Hafez sent an e-mail to Davis alerting him to the situation two weeks ago, Davis called Kirk Simmons, the executive director of the Division of International Affairs, and told him to get rid of the alcohol that had been left over from a November reception.

“I have no idea why it was stored in the building. I am surprised it was not removed directly after the reception,” Davis said.

Melissa McGee, the harm and risk reduction coordinator for Campus Health Services, said the office had been storing alcohol for nearly two months. She said the provost had told her there was no policy against storing alcohol in the building.

“Because of the nature of the office, if someone was under the influence they would be able to get alcohol out of the closet,” McGee said. “We wanted to make sure that they were kept behind locked doors.”

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New job outlook good for seniors

Survey says employers now hiring more grads

By Thuba Nguyen

The job outlook for students graduating in May is promising as employers of all vocations plan to hire 12.7 percent more college graduates this year than last year.

Despite a slow economic recovery, a survey done by the National Association of Colleges and Employers’ Job Outlook stated that it projects about 19,000 hires this year compared to about 17,000 actual hires last year.

“We’re seeing a lot of activity in engineering, business finance and definitely accounting,” said Bill Ruggirello, Career Services’ assistant director for employer relations.

Officials at Career Services have seen an increase in the number of employers scheduling interviews with graduating students.

“Honeywell, Lockheed Martin, Progressive Insurance and Sherwin-Williams have come to campus to recruit,” Davis said.

The job outlook in the retail sector also appears to be positive. Melissa Burke, director of Southwest Retail Center for Education and Research, said there has been an increase in the number of offers made to UA students in the recruiting field.

Companies like Macy’s and Mervyn’s are offering management positions to graduating seniors.

“The positions they’re hiring are about $32,000 for management trainee and executive development positions,” Burke said.

Burke said companies that put their...