Auditoriums are not voicing their support for a meal plan, and the discussions are taking place. Provost George Davis said yesterday during a breakfast with 10 students.

Davis said most administrators are not taking a stance on the issue because they have only received one presentation on the possibility of a meal plan.

While administrators understand the Student Union Memorial Center's financial situation, Davis said they are also interested in what the students have to say.

"I respect Dan Adams a lot... I don’t think he’s just out there trying to make a buck," Davis said. "But I don’t think (the meal plan) should be rushed."

Earlier this month, President Peter Likins also said he will not send "just anything that comes to my desk," to the Arizona Board of Regents for approval unless it has been thoroughly dissected among students and student union administrators.

Both Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University passed mandatory meal plans earlier this year. Davis said ASU administrators defended their meal plan by saying it would increase retention.

Davis said although a meal plan at the UA could affect retention by creating a sense of community, the dialogue has not occurred yet. "I think he’s just out there trying to make a buck," Davis said. "But I don’t think (the meal plan) should be rushed."

Kirk Simmons, executive director of UA International Affairs, said while some of the partnerships place an emphasis on an area of study, the partnership with Al-Farabi will encompass multidisciplinary studies.

This will allow students from a range of interests to study abroad, in what Simmons referred to as a "body swap."

"A unique aspect of the memorandum of agreement is students can study at partner universities and pay the tuition of their home institution, a clause which is particularly advantageous to UA students since many schools have higher tuition, Simmons said. "While students can still study abroad at institutions without UA sponsorships, Simmons said student exchanges through IMOA institutions are half the price of traditional study abroad programs."

"Relationships are not imposed by faculty, they are initiated by faculty," Simmons said. "So (faculty) pursue relationships which are mutually beneficial."

The only time intellectual property has been an issue is when dealings...