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ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Provost mum on meal plan

Undecided Davis talks
issues over breakfast

By **Natasha Bhuyan**
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Administrators are not voicing their support for a mandatory meal plan until more discussions take 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 meals 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.

Matt Loehman, Associated Students of the University of Arizona senator-elect who plans to work on the meal plan issue, said he was glad to hear Davis' perspective because mostly Residence Hall Association and ASUA



PHOTOS BY JAKE LACEY/Arizona Daily Wildcat
ASUA Senator-elect Matthew Boepple and other students share breakfast with Provost George Davis in an informal question-and-answer session yesterday morning at the Marriott Hotel.

have weighed in on the matter.

During the hourlong breakfast, organized by ASUA, Davis fielded other questions from students ranging from budget cuts to program fees to playing his harmonica.

Davis reaffirmed the UA's goal to become a Hispanic serving institution in 10 years while also tightening admissions standards.

Although the two goals may seem paradoxical, Davis said the Hispanic population is already growing at a rate that will result in a higher attendance; the UA is simply trying to advance that curve.

At the same time, administrators will not use quotas to achieve diversity because such a move would set the university back, Davis said.

When asked about UA lobbying efforts, Davis said the UA is continuing to lobby the Legislature, asking for \$7 million for the expansion of the College of Medicine to Phoenix on top of other decision packages.

However, with shrinking state appropriations, Davis pointed out administrators

See **BREAKFAST/8**

Israeli soldiers visit UA

Jewish students
reunited with friends

By **Anthony D. Ávila**
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Jewish UA students who traveled to Israel over winter break were temporarily reunited this week with four Israeli soldiers they befriended while visiting the country.

When the UA Hillel Foundation sent 40 students to Israel over the winter, the students met and befriended eight Israeli soldiers who were partnered with them by the Parallel Lives Project.

Ze'ev Cohen, 21, Omer Hartung, 20, Limor Bajayo, 19 and Chen Levinstain, 19, arrived in Tucson Wednesday at about 10 p.m. after a 30-hour trip from Israel and will stay until April 25.

Gil Lang, a pre-communication sophomore who went on the trip to Israel, said reuniting with Cohen and the others was exciting, and it was a great feeling when he first saw them yesterday.

"I thought, 'Wow, I was just with them a few months ago, and now we're together again,'" Lang said. "But it's in my home now."

The Parallel Lives Project was created to arrange permanent relationships between universities and units of the Israeli army, said Shara Grifenhagen, program director of the Hillel Foundation.

The project was created in collaboration with Birthright Israel, an organization that arranges trips for young people of Jewish heritage from all over the world to visit Israel for the first time, according to a document released by Parallel Lives Project.

See **SOLDIERS/12**

UA signs agreement with Kazakh 'sister university'

By **Natasha Bhuyan**
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The UA entered a partnership with a university in Tucson's "Sister City" Almaty yesterday, further solidifying the relationship between the two cities established in 1989.

President Peter Likins signed an International Memorandum of Agreement with Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty, Kazakhstan, a move that will promote an exchange of faculty, students and research collaborations.

Al-Farabi, located in central Asia, will join the list of more than 260 universities worldwide that the UA has partnerships with, including institutions in countries such as Italy, China, Argentina, Tanzania and Egypt.

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 IMO

institutions are half the price of traditional study abroad programs.

Jerry M. Gary, chairman of Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee, said Al-Farabi excels in the fields of mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, economics, history, philosophy, philology and juridical sciences.

Although research is competitive, Simmons said collaborations have not been a problem with partnerships in the past since the research became faculty-driven.

"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 dealing

See **SISTER/12**



President Peter Likins signed an International Memorandum of Agreement with Al-Farabi Kazakh National University yesterday, entering a partnership between the universities. Students would be allowed to study at partner universities while paying their home tuition rate.

JACOB KONST/
Arizona Daily
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