Bernsen calls on alumni for child care

Despite missed meeting, pres pushes reform

From staff reports

A student government cabinet meeting to address the issue of child care on campus was canceled last week because ASU President Cade Bernsen could not attend.

Bernsen was absent from Friday’s scheduled meeting due to a prior commitment with the Alumni Association. He said this meeting ran longer than expected, which is why he could not make it to the discussion regarding child care.

“I don’t want people thinking I missed this meeting on a lack of caring. That is not the case,” Bernsen said.

The issue of child care on campus was one of Bernsen’s key platforms during his presidential campaign last spring. At the Alumni Association meeting Friday, Bernsen said he was tackleing the issue of child care with the alumni members.

In order to network the best possible resources, it is important to reach out to the alumni because they are also potential donors, Bernsen said.

“These alumni are so devoted,” Bernsen said. “They’ve got money and resources. If we combine our efforts between students and alumni, the chances of success are good.”

Because many alumni don’t always know what issues are concerning students and campus life, Bernsen said part of his job is to inform them and to seek out their involvement.

“We have alumni who are expressing interest in child care, that’s part of what I’m working on and I’m really excited about it,” he said.

Even though the meeting was cancelled, the issue of child care was still discussed.

Sara Birnbaum, Associated Students of the University of Arizona, said the meeting that day to discuss the initiative and the still-forming coalition that has taken more than two years to develop.

“We’re still in the basic planning stages of a coalition, and we’re really in the very initial planning stages to put together the best attack that we can,” Birnbaum said, a political science senior.

But the progress is already underway, said Bernsen, who added that he has set aside thousands of dollars to campaign for issues like child care.

“We’ve got to develop the awareness component of the campaign,” he said.

In addition to printing flyers and making T-shirts for a press conference later this month or early October, a Web site is also being created.

A $20 contribution, the donator can receive a hurricane-relief fund T-shirt or have unpaid registration charges without a $250 late charge. This includes internships. Any questions can be directed to the department adviser.

Brewery aims to raise $25K

Gentle Ben’s Brewing Co., 865 E. University Blvd., plans to raise $25,000 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. For a $20 contribution, the donor can receive a hurricane-relief fund T-shirt and a free pint of beer or beverage of choice, according to a press release. All of this is to be directed to the Red Cross.

Those who wish to donate but don’t have $20 can buy red and blue heart-shaped Mardi Gras beads for $1.

A logo modified to look like a jiggly bag has also been welded to the floor in the restaurant lobby for extra donations.