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The University of Arizona, Tucson

# Survey: Pres. must fix class availability



#### **By Zach Colick** Arizona Daily Wildcat

The search for a new university president is underway as the search committee begins establishing criteria for candidates, but students and faculty have opinions of their own about what the new president should focus on.

Arizona Daily Wildcat staff randomly surveyed more than 100 students last week by walking into classrooms and asking students to anonymously fill out a questionnaire about the most important university issues and characteristics the next president should have.

Enhancing diversity, competitive faculty salaries, building and maintenance renewal, rising tuition costs and class availability were the five choices students mulled over by marking which are the most and least important.

From those surveyed, 53

percent said class availability should be the next president's first priority.

Rising tuition costs was second on the priority list, with about 35 percent saying it was the most important.

Enhancing diversity was the least important choice, with about 31 percent saying it should be the next president's last priority.

Close behind were building maintenance at 30 percent and competitive faculty salaries, with 27 percent of those surveyed saying it should be the last priority.

Most students said they wanted a solid, open-minded and accessible president, who would be willing to sit down and listen to students. Other students said they would like to see a welltraveled, female president take the reigns at the UA.

"I want someone who's not afraid to stir things up in favor

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### **QUICK HITS**

#### Three join GPSC after elections

Three students are now part of the Graduate and Professional Student Council after elections ended Friday. The election was for three open seats on the GPSC that were not filled during the annual general elections held last spring.

Representing the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture is Beverly Wilson, a landscape architecture graduate student; College of Education will be Aaron Gubi, a psychology graduate student; Interdisciplinary Programs will be represented by Claudia Benavente, a philosophy doctoral candidate.

All terms will run through the spring semester.

#### MPASA raises \$400 for relief

Students in the Masters of Public Administration Student Association who passed a hat in their classes collecting for Katrina relief last week raised several hundred dollars.

Efrat Feferman, MPASA president and a public administration graduate student, said the collection raised more than \$400.

Donations will be directed to

## Dalai Lama delivers message of compassion to 8,000 at TCC

**By J. Ferguson** Arizona Daily Wildcat

The 70-year-old Dalai Lama slipped off his red tennis shoes and got comfortable in the lotus position in front of thousands who came to hear him discuss the virtues of compassion.

An estimated 8,300 people flocked to the Tucson Convention Center yesterday to hear the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, give his afternoon speech.

With a playful smile, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate slapped his knees, saying most people have a different perspective on comfort and that many would find the lotus position uncomfortable. He sat in the position for the next 90 minutes.

The spiritual and political leader of millions of Tibetan Buddhists preached to the audience about the need to embrace an "inner disarmament" allowing compassion into their heart and letting go of anger.

In preaching the need to embrace compassion, he told a story about one of his drivers who had a short temper.

After bumping his head while working underneath a car, the driver then rammed his head repeatedly against the car to vent his frustration.

"The car may not hurt, but his head suffers more," the Dalai Lama said.

He said this was evidence that what makes us angry often has more than one cause.

"Every event is due to endless causations, not just one cause," the Dalai Lama said. "Anger needs to have one target. ... Anger blinds us so that we don't see reality correctly." The true path to inner peace, he said, was with embracing a broader perspective and compassion, which in turn leads to a calmer self. "It is easier to face things," he said. "That kind of (personal) atmosphere calms our minds and as a result our body functions more smooth."



the Red Cross, Feferman said.

#### ArizonaCares collecting hurricane victim supplies

Members of ArizonaCares will be collecting supplies for hurricane relief efforts today on the UA Mall.

The organization will be collecting cash or checks, hygiene supplies, basic first aid supplies, emergency supplies such as blankets, pillows and school supplies for Hurricane Katrina victims.

The drop-off location for supplies will be near the south end of the UA Mall in front of the Student Union Memorial Center.

ArizonaCares comprises members from the Arizona Student Unions, the University Activities Board, the Arizona Blue Chip Program, Greek Life, the Dean of Students Office and Arizona Athletics. The Dalai Lama touched on politics briefly — saying recent nuclear disarmament talks in North Korea were

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Chris Codutoe/Arizona Daily Wildcat

The 14th Dalai Lama speaks to a sold-out crowd of more than 8,000 yesterday at the Tucson Convention Center. Tenzin Gyatso wrapped up a four day stop in Tucson as part of his two-week tour of the country.

### Group to help famine victims in Niger

**By Cassie Blombaum** Arizona Daily Wildcat

Fed up with the slow response to crisis-stricken areas by some charitable organizations, Mamadou Baro, a UA anthropologist, decided to create a new project to aid starvation in Africa.

Niger Direct, a UA program that provides emergency aid directly to hunger-stricken families in Niger, was established last month, Baro said.

Famine has threatened the lives of 3.6 million Nigeriens since 2004, ac-

cording to World Vision, a Christian relief and development organization. Baro, who returned to Niger last week, said after initially visiting the country, he realized the best way to

aid the suffering was to establish an

organization that got aid out quickly

and efficiently.

to make a difference one villager at a time," Baro said.

All of Niger Direct's workers are volunteers, so funds go directly to the people who are in need, Baro said.

"We decided to give them money

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"We decided we are going to try