Professors violate politics policy
Teachers have tough time keeping up near Election Day

By Georgetowne Barrett
Arizona Daily Wildcat

The presidential election tomorrow has some students feeling some pressure from professors and teaching assistants who make their political views and opinions clear to students.

Official policy at the UA states professors should not impose their personal or political views and opinions on students. However, in the politically charged atmosphere of this year’s election, some feel pressure from the political views of professors makes deciding who to vote for more difficult.

William Dixon, head of the political science department, said faculty members try not to influence students on partisan issues. “I suspect it is difficult for professors to talk about specific issues without their own opinions coming up,” Dixon said.

Kim Shorkey, a secondary education sophomore, said she has a class where the teaching assistants have expressed their personal views on the presidential election.

In her political science class, she said the professor has exposed students to each candidate, but the teaching assistants have openly expressed their opposition to President Bush.

“The TAs are pushing Kerry,” Shorkey said. “The TAs feel Kerry is the more hip college student candidate.”

Dixon said he believes most faculty members in the political science department have encouraged students to vote in this year’s election.

See PROFESSORS

Soccer soars to new heights: Weekend sweep puts Cats atop Pac-10 with two games to go

By Natasha Bhuyan
Arizona Daily Wildcat

Moments before fireworks electrified the sky above the UA Mall Friday night, the Alumni Association dedicated the new wildcat sculpture on campus to UA President Peter Likins and his wife Pat during the Alumni Plaza dedication ceremony.

Philip “Flip” Fly, president of the Associated Students of the University of Arizona in 1979-1980 and chair of the Alumni Association in 1999-2000, said Likins was chosen because he embraced the Alumni Plaza from the beginning and has contributed years of tireless work to the university.

This month marks Likins’ seventh year as president of the UA.

“People owe him a huge debt of gratitude,” Mary said. “He’s the strongest leader I’ve met.”

Likins, who was surprised by the dedication, said the tribute left him in tears.

“It means more than I can possibly find words to explain,” Likins said. “We are very appreciative of the thoughtful people who dedicated that wonderful sculpture to us.”

Titled “The Wildcat Family,” the 14-foot-tall sculpture features two full-grown wildcats one perched upon a saguaro branch, the other sitting below guarding two cubs, symbolic of one generation passing on their knowledge, love and experience to another, said Gilbert Chester, chair of the Alumni Association.

Although May picked the idea of the Alumni Plaza and a bronzed wildcat statue to Likins in 2000, Likins was the person who came up with the concept for the “picturesque” wildcat family sculpture, May said.

The piece was sculpted by Tubac artist Nicholas Wilson from Likins’ vision, and the cost is estimated at $375,000.

Lynn Cuffari, who graduated from the UA in 1984, said she believes the sculpture is a beautiful representation of what family and community bring the UA. Cuffari said although most people don’t realize it, she knows she will always be part of the Wildcat family.

The unveiling of the sculpture followed the dedication of the $55 million Alumni Plaza, which was funded entirely by alumni and private donors, to the university.

The plaza includes shaded seating, a grassy hill, trees, facts about the UA engraved in granite, the Joseph Wood Krutchactus garden and the four University Mission Fountains of education, discovery, inspiration and service.

During their speeches, Gilbert said the plaza will be a place for students to “gather, inspire, celebrate, contemplate, rest and dream.” While May called the Alumni Plaza a gift from the “grateful sons and daughters” of the university.

“We labored for five years to see this day. It was a labor of love,” May said. “Once a student, always an alumnus.”

In his speech, Likins praised the determination of the alumni