Search for new UA president to kick off in May

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

When President Peter Likins retires in 2006, he’s not going alone, as three members of his cabinet will also be handing over the reins. However, student leaders have high expectations for the next wave of administration.

Although they have not officially announced their retirement, Saudra Taylor, senior vice president for campus life, and Joel Valdez, senior vice president for business affairs, will be retiring in 2006, said Likins. Richard Powell, vice president for research, graduate studies and economic development, will retire this summer.

There will be a major change in leadership at that time,” Likins said.

Likins, who will be 70 years old when he retires in 2006, said he announced his retirement in 2003 so the campus would have time to prepare for the transition, but students say they are still concerned about the change.

The students’ biggest fear is a new team of administrators who are not as committed to student concerns as the current cabinet, said Student Regent Ben Graff.

Graff said in 2000, when he met with student government officials from universities across the Pac-10 Conference, other students were shocked to learn the Associated Students of the University of Arizona leaders have one-on-one meetings with Likins on a monthly basis.

“Ninety percent of the universities were amazed by something that seems so part of the communication here at the UA,” Graff said.

Doug Hartz, ASUA president in 2002-03 and a second-year medical student at the UA, said despite student-administration conflicts, Likins’ cabinet respects student opinions, which he hopes will continue with the next wave of leadership.

“Whenever I’ve seen them with NAU and ASU (administrators), I was always proud of the fact that our administration seemed to be the best: the most professional, articulate, exemplary leadership,” Hartz said. “And while we didn’t always agree, a testament to their character was they were always willing to sit down, talk things over and listen to another perspective.”

Taylor, a 14-year veteran of her position, said Likins’ cabinet is proficient because they look at the university as a whole rather than promote individual agendas, and she hopes the trend will remain as the new administrators take over.

However, finding a replacement for the president will be a rigorous process, which could take more than six months, said Likins, who was interviewed for 15 hours before he was appointed UA president in 1997.

In May, the Arizona Board of Regents will create a presidential search committee, chaired by a regent and made up of students, faculty, Tucson community members and UA representatives, Likins said.

The committee will define their expectations for president, identify finalists, interview candidates and recommend a new president.

Bill would require 2:1 state financial aid ratio

By Andrea Kelly
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

PHOENIX — The Arizona Students Association reminded legislators yesterday of a financial aid agreement made more than 15 years ago and asked the state to update the agreement to help more students pay for college.

A bill passed by the Senate Education Committee yesterday would require the state to give more to the Arizona Financial Aid Trust Fund than promote individual agendas, and she looks at the university as a whole rather than promote individual agendas, and she hopes the trend will remain as the new administrators take over.

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