UA leaders present tuition ideas

By Natasha Bhuyan ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

UA President Peter Likins will release his tuition proposal today, a plan including tuition increases and possible mandatory fees for undergraduates, graduates and non-residents.

Student Body President Alistair Chapman will also release his tuition counterproposal today.

In order to remain at the top of the bottom one-third in tuition rates compared to peer institutions across the nation, Likins said tuition needs to increase 19 percent, or roughly $880, for undergraduates next year.

However, at the regents' meeting last month, Likins said such an increase would be too extreme.

In 2003, Likins and the regents aimed at raising the UA's tuition from one of the cheapest schools in the nation to the top of the bottom one-third.

Since then, students have seen tuition increases totaling more than 50 percent, with the highest tuition increase two years ago at $1,010. Because of the increases, the UA is 41st out of 50 peer institutions in tuition rates.

Likins also hinted at the possibility of implementing program fees because students would be more comfortable with fees than high tuition increases, since financial benefits of program fees are captured in specific colleges rather than financial benefits of program fees are captured in specific colleges rather than one-third.

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