

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

wildcat.arizona.edu

Vol. 96 Issue 31

University of Arizona, Tucson

Faculty backs 'excellence'

Faculty Senate favors Likins' program, but wants input in plan to refocus academics

BY JESSE GREENSPAN
Staff Writer

The Faculty Senate voiced support yesterday for President Peter Likins' plan to refocus the university's mission, although some senators asked for more faculty input in the decision-making process.

Although many faculty senators supported Likins' plan, dubbed "focused excellence," they expressed concern over the input they would have on the overall process.

"I completely support your move," said Gail Burd, the associate head of the molecular and cellular biology

department. "(But) I am very concerned that the scholarship and academic side be represented in your decision."

Student body president Doug Hartz, who sits on the Faculty Senate, also expressed support for the plan, but stressed it was important to remain cautious while everything was being worked out.

"There are a lot of ideas on the table ... and they are all a little vague," he said. "There is a legitimate precaution (among the faculty) because they realize right now there are a lot of ideas and a lot of impact to be had, and they want to make sure they are not left out of it."

To help identify areas that can be cut or merged, Provost George Davis asked for input from the faculty, while recognizing that not everyone would readily accept the

decisions.

"In the next month it is really important for me to hear from the faculty," he said. "Reflection and input is already flying in."

Still, Likins did add that the decision-making process was not democratic.

He said cutting programs was inevitable, although he will not be prepared to look into the specifics of the situation until November.

"That will be much, much tougher," he said.

Nationally ranked programs would remain a top priority, Davis said, but racial and geographic diversity would not be sacrificed.

The senate meeting came just three days after Davis released a memo outlining 13 academic themes that administrators believe the university should focus on as it cuts some

programs and merges others.

Those themes, range from "Astrophysics, Earth and Space Science" to "Cultural and Ethnic Studies, with an emphasis on the American Southwest." (See table on Page 6.)

The next step in the refocusing process will be getting input from faculty and other employees, who are being asked to give their suggestions to Davis and other administrators.

In October, the three university presidents and the Arizona Board of Regents will discuss preliminary plans for restructuring the three state universities, but Likins won't present the board with a final restructuring plan until June.

On Friday, all college deans were asked to prepare plans

See SENATE, Page 6



SAUL LOEB/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Provost George Davis speaks to the Faculty Senate at yesterday afternoon's meeting in the James E. Rogers College of Law. Davis asked for help identifying areas that should be cut or merged, while adding that not everyone would readily accept the decision.

Path to enlightenment



ALYSON E. GROVE/Arizona Daily Wildcat

The typically crowded and bustling UA Mall undergoes its nightly transformation into a peaceful park of solitude, as the autumn sun hangs low in the clouds late yesterday afternoon.

Carpool program gaining popularity

BY JAMES KELLEY
Staff Writer

With construction projects continuing to devour parking lots, more members of the UA community have turned to alternate ways of getting to campus.

There are 45 more groups of people carpooling in the Parking and Transportation Services program this year than last.

"Actually, (the program) exploded," said Mike Wallace, PTS customer relations office specialist in charge of the program. "Last year, there were 24 carpools, now there are 69 spaces."

The sudden rise in carpools was unexpected.

Last spring, there were only about 30 carpools to use 50 spaces allotted. This year there is a waiting list.

"We really only expected the same amount as last year," Wallace said. "The carpools are helping alleviate all the extra cars on campus."

A carpool is made up of at least three people who chip in to buy a parking permit at the regular cost and get a reserved space in a lot or garage. Additionally, each member is issued 12 daily scratch-off Zone 1 parking permits per year, to be used when carpooling is not possible.

To promote the program, PTS used flyers and ads in the *Wildcat*, but this year it is more word of

mouth, Wallace said.

There are 10,730 parking spaces on and around campus, as compared to 10,946 last year.

However, some of the parking lots that have given way to construction projects are no longer counted as parking spaces.

This week, the Employee Travel Reduction Survey is being mailed out. The yearly survey is required by Pima County and chronicles how UA employees get to campus.

Last year, 36 percent of employees that responded said who they got to campus using alternative

See CARPOOL, Page 6

Registration drive lures 945 to sign up to vote

Voter registration for the November elections wraps up with some success

BY CYNDY COLE
News Editor

Using inflatable obstacle courses, a band and pounding the pavement around the UA Mall, student government and affiliated organizations registered 945 students and staff to vote in a six-week campaign that

ended yesterday.

Yesterday was the last day to register to vote in Arizona.

Though the student government's efforts were directed at the segment of the population least likely to vote, Associated Students of the University of Arizona President Doug Hartz said he wishes registration rates had been a little higher.

"Our numbers aren't as encouraging as we hoped they'd be, but maybe that's because a

lot of people are registered or have registered elsewhere," Hartz said.

Between volunteers on the Mall with clipboards, and a voter registration drive at CatFest alongside an inflatable obstacle course and a Slip-N-Slide-like toy, ASUA got 700 students to register to vote, said Jenny Rimsza, taskforce director of the student lobbyist group Arizona Students' Association.

See VOTERS, Page 8