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Call for cuts equals concern for jobs at UA

Specifics for UA cuts are still in planning, but Hull's plan to trim \$180 million from the state budget raises concerns

BY STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ
Staff Writer

Although administrators are unsure exactly what percentage of UA's budget would be given back to the state if Gov. Jane Hull goes forward with the spending cuts she announced Thursday – 10 percent for state agencies – they are taking her warnings seriously.

"Ten percent seems unlikely," UA President Peter Likins said. "But some kind of recession, or the state taking money back, seems probable."

The Arizona State Legislature cut UA's budget by \$16.6 million in 2001-2002, not including pay raises that totaled \$3.7 million less than previously approved.

"We are not taking any immediate action," Likins said. "But we're planning the budget with (the governor's) concerns in mind."

There are no specifics of what exactly would be cut, but more jobs and programs are in jeopardy, said Janet Bingham, vice president for university advancement.

More clarity will be seen each month as the state and administrators wait to see if the economy improves.

UA is not responding to Hull's recent announcements — in which she said that the state budget deficit was worse than expected — by telling deans to make cuts, but instead, giving a heads up, Likins

said.

"We feel we have cut to the bone already," Bingham said. "It's our worst fears coming true."

The state's budget for this fiscal year is \$6.2 billion and Hull foresees a \$400 million deficit.

The state cut \$930 million in spending last year to balance the budget in the midst of an economic slowdown that shrunk state revenues.

The cuts Hull told her agency directors to prepare for last Thursday should reduce the deficit by \$150 to \$180 million.

"It's really disappointing because the universities have already been really impacted by budget cuts," said Randy Richardson, vice president for undergraduate education.

Between layoffs and contracts not renewed, 383 UA employees lost their jobs in 2001-2002 and at the beginning of this academic year.

There has been talk of the state universities taking a five percent budget cut, said Greg Fahey, associate vice president for university advancement.

No formal work is being done with the budget cuts, and it is possible nothing will happen until winter or spring, Fahey said.

UA is at standstill right now waiting for the Arizona Board of Regents to meet Sep. 26 and Sept. 27 at Arizona State University.

"At this point, the Board of Regents could direct us to hold money or just to be cautious," Fahey said. "It could be a while before this is settled."

The UA is still struggling with

See **BUDGET**, Page 12

Keeper of the path



UA maintenance worker Chuy Gutierrez works under the early afternoon sun restoring the pathway in front of the Arizona State Museum yesterday. The university's brick and tile architectural details require constant care.
DEREKH FROUDE/Arizona Daily Wildcat

\$3 Rec Center fee funds equipment, clubs, raises

Students appear to be supporting the new fee, as none have yet applied for their possible refund

BY JAMES KELLEY
Staff Writer

This fall, the Department of Campus Recreation ordered a full line of new fitness equipment, gave student employees a raise and gave \$30,000 to sports clubs with money from a new \$3 per student fee.

Although the fee – which was passed by a 1,894 to 922 margin last March in the ASUA election and approved by the Arizona Board of Regents in the end of April – is refundable, no one has requested their fee be waived so far this year.

Two students took requests to get the refund, but they never came back to turn the forms in, said Juliette Moore, director of the Campus Recreation department.

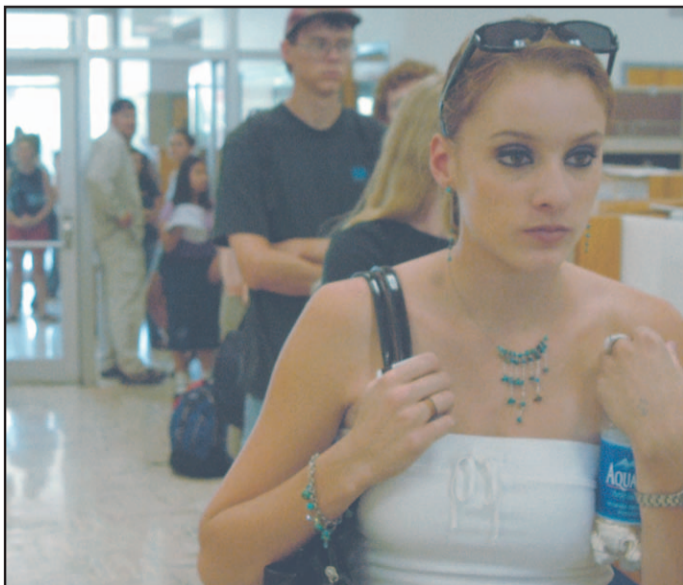
The newly ordered fitness equipment purchased with the

extra funds is scheduled to arrive in mid-October. It will add life to the center's aging equipment. About 65 percent of the equipment at the Student Recreation Center, 1400 E. 6th St., is more than 10 years old, Moore said last semester.

With the money, the department also bought new furniture for the pool area.

"A lot of people like it. It creates a nice atmosphere at the pool," said Jacinto Espinoza Jr.,

See **REC CENTER**, Page 13



DEREKH FROUDE/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Veterinary science freshman Jena Hicks waits in line yesterday afternoon in order to pay her account balance in full at the Bursar's Office in the Administration building. Last year, UA administrators reinstated the policy of dropping students from any course they have not paid for in full.

Bursar drops unpaid students today

BY RYAN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

By the end of today, up to 1,500 students who have not paid their registration could lose their classes.

The policy of dropping classes for those who have not paid by the deadline was reinstated last year. UA students could remain in classes even with outstanding balances in 2000-2001.

"Some folks need a deadline to respond to, which is unfortunate, but our records show that students pay more promptly when there's a deadline," said Jean Johnson, associate controller of the Bursar's Office.

The Bursar's Office went back to dropping classes partly because the university was losing money under

the old non-cancellation policy.

"Every semester there was an increasing percentage of students who didn't pay," said Randy Richardson, vice president for undergraduate education.

Richardson estimates that keeping students in class who didn't pay their tuition on time cost UA between \$500,000 and \$1 million. The state Legislature funds UA based on the total headcount of students enrolled on Sept. 16.

UA loses funding – about \$4,000 per student in years past – for students who don't pay in time and aren't counted as enrolled.

The Bursar's Office advises all students to log onto Student Link and verify that their account balance is paid in full in order to avoid

cancellation.

The crowd of students paying registration and other bills at the Bursar's office held steady yesterday, Johnson said.

As of Saturday night about 1,500 students had yet to pay tuition, Johnson said.

She expected that number to drop significantly, but added she doesn't expect lines to run out the door today.

The new policy may actually help out some students.

Students who cancel their classes, whether by dropping out or by not paying, will receive a 90 percent refund until the end of the day.

Under the old policy, students

See **FEE**, Page 12