

Activity fee vote set for Monday

By Dana Crudo
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

A \$30 activity fee that would generate \$1.2 million to \$1.4 million for concerts and other events will be up for a student vote Monday.

After delaying the vote last month to work out the fee's details, Associated Students of the University of Arizona senators approved the student activity fee referendum by a vote of 9-0. One senator was not present to vote.

Seven senators voted to hold the election on Monday after members of the Collaboration Board said they were confident they could educate students on campus in time. Two voted against the date, saying students should have more time to learn about the fee.

Members of the Collaboration Board who are behind the fee say it would be used for concerts, public speakers, educational programs, comedy shows and films for students on campus.

A committee composed of eight student leaders, three students representing the campus at large and two administrators appointed by the vice president for Campus Life would be

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Students: Fee vote premature

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Although student leaders are confident that five days is enough time to educate students about the \$30 per year activity fee, students on campus say the referendum date is too soon.

"It's a very short period of time," said Judy Kwan, a materials science and engineering junior. "It's unreasonable."

Amberly Atene, a psychology junior, said she is not familiar with the fee, and does not plan to vote in next week's election.

A \$15 fee would be charged at the beginning of each semester, and could be refunded to any student who didn't feel benefited by the programming.

"They need to give it a few weeks," said Aisling Force, a fine arts junior.

J.P. Benedict, student body president, said the early vote is necessary in

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HOME GROWN



WILL SEBERGER/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Mark Bais, a marketing senior, works at the university's hydroponic fruit and vegetable farm as a produce salesman. The same farm will sell produce to eateries in the student unions.

UA-GROWN GREENERY TO BE SERVED UP IN UNIONS

By Jessica Lee
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

That extra green crunch in your salad from the student union will soon be UA-grown.

Tomatoes and cucumbers are ripening on the vines at the Controlled Environment Agriculture Center by plant science students, waiting to be picked and sold to the Student Union Memorial Center.

The spring harvest of cucumbers will find its way to campus dishes in the next few weeks. The cucumbers are used to make dishes such as the sushi that is sold at Cactus Grill, Park Student Union and the various grocery stores.

Workers at On Deck Deli have been slicing and slapping UA tomatoes on sandwiches for years, says Kim Celaya, the senior buyer for the Dining and Information Services.

"The quality is always excellent,"

Celaya said. Many of the restaurants in the unions use the tomatoes and cucumbers when they are in season.

Enclosed in a large greenhouse, the tomatoes and cucumbers grow in tubs of water, not soil, called hydroponics. The 10-foot tall vines are attached to a rope and grow vertically toward the sun.

"I have pride knowing my efforts are going back to the UA campus."

— Mark Bais, marketing senior

Fertilizer is added to barrels of water where it is dissolved and distributed to the plants by a computer system.

Eating the UA tomatoes came with several benefits.

For example, the UA tomatoes are harvested ripe rather than picked when they are green, as many large-scale producers do.

"When the food is picked green, it doesn't have as many of the goodies that give it flavor and nutritional value," said Patricia Rorabaugh, a plant sciences lecturer. Rather, commercial fruits are ripened from exposure to ethylene gas,

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Atmo sciences rescued from cuts

By Jeff Sklar
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Administrators won't dismantle the atmospheric sciences department, which for the past 14 months has been targeted for possible elimination, Provost George Davis said yesterday.

Davis said administrators were persuaded not to recommend its closure after reading a report from a faculty committee charged with evaluating how the university could excel in earth sciences and environmental programs.

"They made the case," Davis said. "We will preserve atmospheric sciences."

The committee said without atmospheric sciences, the UA's research and teaching would suffer in earth sciences and environmental programs, which deal with land and water use, atmospheric changes and other threats to Earth's long-term survival. Davis and President Peter Likins have called earth and environmental studies an area in which the UA should excel in the future.

"There's some really strong sciences in that department, and the whole field of atmospheric sciences is really key," said Susan Beck, head of the geosciences department and a committee member.

Atmospheric scientists study long-term climate change, pollution and other issues with public policy implications, in addition to straightforward weather forecasting.

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"The University of Arizona is one of the strongest universities for science research," said Joaquin Ruiz, dean of the College of Science. "In order to maintain that strength, atmospheric sciences is an (important) component."

Likins and Davis had proposed creating an interdisciplinary program in atmospheric sciences, but the group's report and outside experts showed that such a move wouldn't provide the necessary resources to maintain strong research.

"They're just saying you'd be crazy to turn that program into an (interdisciplinary studies program) or merge it with some other program," Davis said.

Atmospheric sciences faculty have opposed the department's proposed elimination since it was announced in January 2003. Last April administrators decided to delay a decision on whether to eliminate atmospheric sciences, saying they needed more time to investigate the effects of the proposed cut.

Faculty welcomed the support they found from the study team.

"Our faculty is certainly in favor of being saved," said atmospheric sciences professor Benjamin Herman. "The bottom line is we can't live without a healthy, good atmosphere."

Now that the department's future has been solidified, new faculty will have to be rehired to replace the people who have left in previous years, Ruiz said. Only six full-time faculty currently work in the department, down from eight when the department's closure was initially proposed 14 months ago.

When proposing the department's elimination, Davis and Likins said it lacked enough faculty to be retained as a free-standing department. They had initially proposed moving the faculty to other departments, as part of the interdisciplinary program.

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