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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Regents draft faculty felon policy

By Bob Purvis
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

PHOENIX — Responding to political pressure from a state legislator, the Arizona Board of Regents has crafted a draft policy outlining hiring and firing processes for employees convicted of a felony.

The draft would require universities to run criminal background checks on applicants and fingerprinting for "safety-sensitive" positions or jobs dealing

with minors.

However, it would not keep felons convicted of violent or sexual crimes from being hired, as Rep. Andy Biggs, R-Gilbert, had hoped.

Biggs introduced a bill earlier in the session that would have ordered universities to automatically fire faculty convicted of certain violent felonies and given university presidents the power to fire felons regardless of the offense.

He stopped pushing the House-approved bill after being assured the

regents would pursue more stringent hiring practices.

Biggs said that although the draft policy shows the regents are "making an effort," it doesn't go far enough.

"The way the policy is written, it looks like it pays more attention to the due process of faculty than it does to the safety of the other faculty and students," Biggs said.

Under the draft policy, faculty convicted of felonies would be placed on

See FELONS/10

UA to fully fund grad TA tuition in 3 years

Waivers a reality unless UA has 'financial disaster'

By Jeff Sklar
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The UA will fully waive graduate teaching and research assistants' tuition beginning in 2006-2007 unless the university suffers serious financial setbacks, a senior official who oversees graduate student affairs said Friday.

The full waivers would be preceded by annual increases from the 50 percent waiver all graduate assistants receive now, said Richard Powell, vice president of research, graduate studies and economic development.

President Peter Likins said last week that graduate assistants will receive 60 percent waivers next year. In 2005-2006, those will rise to 80 percent.

"I think it will happen, barring any financial disaster that comes along," Powell said.

The tuition waivers essentially act as pay raises for graduate assistants, who earn stipends ranging from around \$8,000 to \$19,000, if they work half time. This year, however, they had to pay back about \$1,900 in tuition costs.

Tuition will likely rise annually, offsetting part of those pay raises. But the increased waivers would mean graduate assistants in the 2006-2007 school year would earn about \$1,700 more than they will next year if tuition remains the same.

The move will also make the UA the 13th out of the 15 universities in its peer group to offer full

See GRAD/10

A SATURDAY NIGHT SPIN



KEVIN KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Fourteen-year-olds Kelsee Rupp and Laura Piccioli and 10-year-old Wes Farley ride the Spin Out Saturday night at Spring Fling at Rillito Downs. Preliminary numbers suggest attendance was close to the 30,000 who went to Spring Fling last year, organizers said.

Easter didn't keep folks from 'Fling'

By Dana Crudo
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Despite bad weather and the Easter holiday, Spring Fling coordinators said the carnival was a success.

Although there were no official attendance records as of late last night, Lindsay Urbank, Spring Fling director, said the Easter weekend did not keep people away from the event, which is touted as the largest student-run carnival in the country.

Preliminary numbers

suggest this year's Spring Fling attendance rivaled last year's attendance of just under 30,000. Organizers set their attendance goal at 25,000 this year.

On some nights, the attendance broke last year's numbers by four digits, Urbank said.

But the 30th annual carnival still had its fair share of problems.

On Thursday, the automatic teller machines were out of order because they weren't receiving a wireless signal.

It was frustrating,

Urbank said.

People were given passes that allowed them to re-enter the carnival to get money from an outside ATM. The problem was fixed by Friday.

Urbank said while problems come up every year, everything was taken care of quickly this year.

Spring Fling also closed early on Saturday when people stopped coming because of the cold weather.

"We were doing great in the beginning," Urbank said. "People don't want to be out when it is cold, though."

But she said she was glad the carnival ended early because as soon as the gates were closed, the rain started falling.

"It saved us time and energy that wasn't needed," Urbank said.

Rob Wild, a physics senior, worked in a booth run by the recycling club this weekend. He said, despite the bad weather, the club received more recycling donations on Saturday than on Thursday and Friday combined.

See CARNIVAL/11

Tax filing may be less taxing than students think

By Thuba Nguyen
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

When it comes to doing their taxes, many students defer the task to their parents, scared to tackle the process.

But for the average student at the UA, filing taxes by this year's April 15 deadline might not be so tedious and complicated, officials say.

Bill Moser, a graduate teaching associate in accounting, said doing taxes for an average, single student might not be so complicated. The process is quick, taking about less than a half-hour for single students without any dependents.

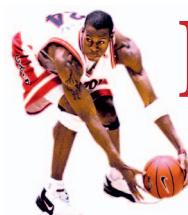
Moser said most students usually file the 1040EZ form, since they make less than \$50,000, have no dependents and just claim themselves and their spouses.

Michael Flowers, an accountant at Flowers,

See TAX/11

Pre-9/11 memo warns of hijacking plan

PAGE 6



Iguodala will enter NBA draft

PAGE 15

Sophomore leaves after 2 years

Take off your clothes and streak!

PAGE 13