

method. She allows her students to discover what works best for them. "If it's going to happen, it's because they're going to do it," she said. In her Latin class, Jackson has used baroque music that plays at 40

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No raise for employees

Colleges don't have money for pay increase

Robert A. Heyman
Traveler Staff

University of Arkansas employees will not see a two-percent cost-of-living raise recently authorized by Gov. Jim Guy Tucker.

UA President B. Alan Sugg said the state legislature mandated the raise but did not appropriate the money for higher education needed to finance the raise.

He said the raise would have affected non-classified employees of the state universities, including faculty members and deans, among others.

Sugg said a 2.5-percent pay raise for classified employees was authorized last September in the hope that new money would be received this spring.

"We did get a little money this spring, but that covered the raise that we gave [in September]," Sugg said. "When the governor authorized the additional two-percent raise, we didn't have enough

money to give those raises."

Sugg said employees of the University of Arkansas system are disappointed.

"When we've explained why we couldn't give the raise because we didn't have enough money to give the raise, they were understanding," he said. "They're somewhat disappointed, and I'm disappointed, too."

He said the universities in the UA system are in the process of building a budget.

"We are doing everything we can to give [employees] a raise on July 1," he said.

Sugg said he is sure there will not be an increase in health insurance premiums on July 1.

Tom Dorre, UA associate vice chancellor for finance, recently told *The Springdale Morning News* that \$700,000 would be needed to implement the two-percent cost-of-living raise from the Jan. 30 effective date through the end of the fiscal year in June.

Angle Webber
Traveler Staff

Students at Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia are upset over a recent increase in room and board fees due to the soft drink tax.

The Arkansas General Assembly in the Second Extraordinary Session of 1993 passed a tax on soft drinks. This tax is on the syrup that goes into the soft drinks, not the carbonated water itself. The tax also affects powdered drink mixes, but not juice, coffee, tea, or milk.

Brian Mefford, SAU's Student Government Association president, said that fees at SAU have been raised \$20 a semester to offset the cost of the tax.

"Normally we [SGA] don't get into state-wide affairs, but we felt like this was something we needed to take a stand on. This added expense is going directly to the students, who will be adversely affected by it. We felt we had to make a move on it."

The SGA recently passed a resolution stating that it "endorses the effort to repeal the soft drink tax and encourages all students to vote against this unfair tax and candidates who fail to support its repeal."

Mefford said that they have been working in conjunction with the "Citizens Against Unfair Taxes" organization based in Little Rock, who has launched a "Vote Against the Soft Drink Tax" campaign.

Although the student government at SAU is taking a strong stand on the issue, the protest may not necessarily be shared by all students on the campus.

Brenda Tuberville, editor of SAU's student newspaper *The Bray*, said that she sees no signs of a campus-wide protest.

"I have seen no evidence that the student body is

'up in arms' about this, as the letter they sent out said. If they are, they're rioting quietly and out of sight," she said.

Tuberville said that SGA is attempting to speak for the entire student body, but many students neither know or care about the tax.

On the other hand, Mefford said that many students agreed with the protest by SGA.

"This has angered students since it was passed last year. Everyone I've talked to is against the tax, and the general consensus of the students is to protest it," Mefford said.

Mefford said plans have been discussed for campus-wide activities to promote their campaign, but so far there haven't been any actual movements.

"There hasn't even been a student referendum on this issue," Tuberville said.

James Conneely, UA Director of Residence Life and Dining Services, said that room and board fees have not increased due to the tax, although prices paid by RL&DS were affected considerably.

Carol Godfrey, Assistant Director of Dining Services, said the tax has had quite an impact.

"It's costing us a lot of money. We just absorbed that cost into our budget and did not raise board fees because of the tax."

Godfrey said she could understand the difficulty other schools may have in accommodating the tax. She said the UA has some flexibility in its budget, so it could absorb it more easily than some universities have been able to.

"It won't hurt our students here, although it is quite a bit of money," Godfrey said.

Godfrey said she didn't anticipate the rates being raised for next year, although the budget has not yet been approved.

State legislature approves hiring of affirmative action director for UA

Alyson Low
Traveler Staff

The Arkansas State Legislature has approved the creation of a director of affirmative action at the University of Arkansas.

The director will help develop policies for the recruitment and retention of minority administration, staff, faculty, and students and also will develop reports on compliance with affirmative ac-

tion.

Roderick McDavis, dean of the College of Education, said the decision to create the position is "very timely."

"We are becoming much more of a diversified nation," McDavis said. "We need a point person to help us recruit and retain diversified students, faculty, and staff."

The director will work with the Office of Human Relations and forge links with representa-

tives from academic units to create an entire affirmative action team.

McDavis said he thinks the UA has experienced "sporadic success" in recruiting and retaining minorities in various roles.

"We have done a below-average job of recruiting and retaining minority faculty, administrators, and staff," he said. "Part of that is that we have not had a person charged with that type of respon-

sibility.

"On a major university campus, it's critical to have someone providing the leadership for this kind of an effort."

McDavis noted that he is the only minority dean on the UA campus.

"When you look at the middle administrative structure, and you say you have only one minority member, you haven't said much," he said. "We have a lot of room

for improvement.

McDavis said the recruitment of minority students has been more successful than drawing faculty and staff. He said retention rates for these students are another problem.

"We need to improve the overall graduation rate, but especially the minority rate," he said. "It's one thing to get them here, but it's another to retain and graduate

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