One year ago, Fresno State students voted on a fee referendum that would significantly hike Instructionally Related Activity (IRA) fees. Students answered with 65 percent rejecting the proposal. But their wishes were denied when the Campus Fee Advisory Committee came together and recommended an amended increase anyway. University President John D. Welty approved a $52 IRA fee increase, making the total fee $62 for 2008-09.

Welty told The Collegian in May 2008 that the increase was necessary because several programs would be in serious jeopardy if they didn’t get additional revenue. He named music and theatre arts, specifically, as two of the programs in need. Also, the new women’s lacrosse team and swimming and diving team needed student fee support, so the university could comply with federal gender equity rules.

Dean of Student Affairs Paul Oliaro, Ph.D. was also interviewed in the May 2008 article and said that the fee hike was necessary. “We tried to do what was in the best interest of the whole university,” Oliaro said.

One year later, The Collegian has now gathered and analyzed the last three years of IRA allocations. The Collegian elected to only examine allocations on the academic and extracurricular side, which takes about half of a student’s IRA fee.

In tough economic times like the present, students should know where their money is going and why. Who is handling these funds? Who is reaping the benefits and who is not?

President Welty and the sitting ASI president hand-pick the IRA Advisory Board that make the tough allocation decisions. This board is made up of three Fresno State students and three faculty/administrators.

In the second part of this special report, The Collegian scrutinizes the last three years of IRA allocations, conducts interviews and breaks down the disbursement of $1.2 million in IRA money.

WHERE?
Which clubs or organizations are the top recipients of IRA money?
Page 5

WHO?
Which faculty and staff members are on the IRA Advisory Board?
Pages 6-7

HOW?
What are the rules governing the disbursement process?
Page 5
 When things go horribly wrong
just laugh it off

“Laughing Stock” serves as anecdote

By Valerie Nevens
The Collegian

Count Dracula emerges on stage ready to drain the veins of another victim, but just as he aims for the jugular, the unthinkable occurs—his plastic fangs fall out and go down the front of the victim’s blouse.

“That’s live theater,” Kathleen McKinley, director of University Theater’s “Laughing Stock,” said, quoting the popular theater motto. “You never know what to expect during a live show: you can’t go back and try again like they can in movies and TV.”

“Laughing Stock,” University Theatre’s last production of the season, is a farce that highlights the multitude of blunders that can occur during a live show.

The Playhouse, a small fictional theater company, is in for a hilarious ride when it schedules three major productions—“Dracula,” “Hamlet” and “Charley’s Aunt”—in a short summer repertory season.

With a limited amount of rehearsal time, resources, and in some cases, talent, the directors, actors and crew are forced to deliver all three productions as flawlessly as possible, but the results are far from perfect.

“The craziest production they put on is Dracula,” McKinley said. “There are so many special effects that don’t work, it’s just one malfunction after the other.”

Jordan Roberts, a senior theater major who plays the role of the company’s artistic director, said the mishaps in the show mirror some of the experiences he’s had in other productions.

“I’ve been in shows where tech stuff has gone horribly wrong and I’ve had to go on stage and fix things,” Roberts said. “I was in one production of ‘Taming of the Shrew’ and there were these doors on a platform that were supposed to slide open or closed, and they wouldn’t close. The crew couldn’t move so I went on stage and tried to strong hold them shut,” Roberts said.

McKinley said that although the play is meant to exaggerate the numerous things that could go wrong in a production, that it really resembles the reality of what happens when a small company with a low budget and inexperienced actors puts on a large production.

“I’ve seen it all, walls fall down, people not come in at their entrance, actors faint,” McKinley said. “The worst mishap occurred during one production I directed. It was a sentimental scene where the actor was holding a teddy bear and the bear caught on fire and she actually had to stomp on the it to put it out.”

With all productions this semester alone and with rehearsals for each being a grueling three hours, five nights a week, it’s not surprising that university theater students have had similar experiences as well.

“It was the final dress rehearsal of show, when one of the leads got flustered and thought she had a quick change when she didn’t,” Ferin Petrelli, a senior theater major said. “I played the maid and was the only person on stage and I had to improvise. “Time goes by so slowly in moments like that.”

As humiliating as something like that can be, Roberts said sometimes malfunctions rev up the energy in a show.

“We welcome weird mishaps, because it adds more fun to the play,” Roberts said. “One time someone dropped out of a play at the last minute and we had to move people around and someone just memorized the lines that day and it was just exciting to see what would happen.”

Wanted mishap or not, McKinley said “Laughing Stock” gives the cast, crew and hopefully some audience members, a chance to look back and laugh at themselves.

“It’s a chance to look back lovingly at out foibles and admit how serious, intense, frazzled and completely caught up we can get in the production process as if it’s a matter of life and death,” McKinley said.
Fresno State may soon be home of the World's Largest Recyclable College Mascot. Eight students from Dr. William Rice's Marketing 188 class have taken on the task of building a bulldog out of metal and promoting it.

According to senior Kerri Thomas, there are two rules with the assignment: break a record and bring attention to Fresno. The idea of a recyclable mascot came from a lot of brainstorming.

Thomas and her classmates used the two rules and came up with a green idea. “We understand that people want to recycle now and we felt that this was the best idea,” Thomas said.

Once the idea was in place the students needed to build the mascot. The students used recyclable metal and welded the pieces together. “No one knew how to weld when we first started this project,” Michael Cruz, another Marketing 188 student, said.

Cruz, Thomas and the other members learned how to weld from local artist Chris M. Sorensen. Sorensen, 83, also gave the students the material needed to build the project and lent them his studio space.

The 500-pound mascot comprised of square tubing, chicken wire and used concrete blades stands about 12 feet tall, 16 feet long and 8 feet wide. The metal frame will be painted the same colors as the Fresno State bulldog. The project has taken the students a month to do.

“This is like a full time job,” Cruz said. Not only have they given their time to the project, but also their own money. “All eight of us have put around $500 into this project,” Cruz said. They have also received donations from local business in the process including Sorensen.

The main purpose behind the mascot is to fill it with crushed cans and donate the proceeds to the Fresno State Scholarship Fund and to Multiple Sclerosis.

Thomas talked the other members into donating to MS because of a family member who has the disease. “I definitely wanted to put money in MS, which is a non-profit organization,” Thomas said.

Thomas, Cruz and others have already started collecting cans to fill the bulldog with. The group went to three local schools and had can-donating contests. The winning class was given a pizza party. The team also has donation barrels at the Alumni House for the public to bring cans.

Thomas, Cruz and their group hope to have the same help with donations that at this Saturday’s double header at Beiden Field featuring Fresno State and Hawaii. The mascot will be unveiled at a tailgate party in the Red Lot parking lot before the games.

After Saturday’s games the mascot will be placed in front of the business building on campus for the remainder of the semester.

Cruz is hoping that after this semester an organization will be willing to take over responsibility for the mascot because all group members are graduating. The mascot will need to be repainted in a year. The group will also need someone to collect the cans from the mascot. For now the main concern is the tailgate and having a world record.

The group sent in an application with hopes that the metal bulldog will be dubbed the World’s Largest Recyclable College Mascot and is awaiting reply from the Guinness World Records.

“We are trying to set a record, not break one,” Cruz said.

Photos courtesy of Michael Cruz

Using recyclable materials and cans, eight Marketing 188 students strive to build a record-breaking mascot.
Campus is not place for advertising

It seems like every time I pass by the Student Union I am bombarded with people asking to hand out flyers. Now, I can understand the practicality of flyers relating to events on campus and important dates I should know as a student but I don’t like flyers advertising businesses or spreading the word about local events. Soliciting in front of most businesses is prohibited, so why should it be allowed on campus?

School is supposed to be an environment dedicated to education and not just another place for advertisements. Not only is it wasteful because most students just throw these flyers away without even looking at them, these flyers are thrown away right after they are handed to students but it is a nuisance. I often find myself walking out of my way to avoid walking by the student union so I don’t have to take these flyers. I am just trying to get to class and would like if I weren’t constantly being stopped and handed flyers.

Jolene Miller
Freshman
Interior Design

‘Disgusting’ parking lots need change

Have you ever paid attention to the parking lots on campus? I have and there are disgusting sights everywhere. They are covered with empty bottles, old paper bags and any other kind of trash you can imagine. The worst thing is that the littering is mostly around the cars in the student parking lot that just opened their cars and let every piece of garbage they have fall on the ground, not bothering to pick it up. The campus is for everyone, so it is sad that so many students don’t care about how it looks. I have not been bothered by littering on the rest of campus, it seems like people see the parking lots as a “free space” to empty their pockets on the ground.

So this is everyone that is too lazy: carry their trash to the trash bins instead of letting it fall on the ground, not bothering to pick it up. It really is a problem.

Heidi Goon
Freshman
Business

Tough luck in nursing department

There are a lot of people who are majoring in nursing now a days, including myself, since the cry for help was heard from hospitals and nursing homes everywhere, many came running to fill in these desperately needed positions.

It turns out that it is harder than ever to get accepted into the nursing program here at Fresno State and everywhere else too. You must pass all your classes with a B+ to be just considered on the waitlist. I just don’t see the point. America is asking for nurses but only so many get accepted. Since everyone heard about the shortage there has been an overflowing amount of nursing students making the competition very high.

So, there is a reason for continuing this major when I know with my average grades I won’t get accepted and maybe waste a few years waiting or should I change my major completely?

Zwart Keshishyan
Freshman
Nursing

Letters to the Editor

The Collegian is a student-run publication that serves the Fresno State community on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Views expressed in The Collegian do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff or university.
Oliaro overturns 7 election disqualifications

By Megan Poindexter and Melissa Knopp
The Collegian

Two weeks after the 10-member group known as P.E.D.R.O. was disqualified from the Associated Student Inc. (ASI) elections, seven candidates saw the ruling overturned on Wednesday.

Dr. Paul Oliaro, vice president of student affairs, stated in a memorandum that he looked at the individual allegations made against candidates.

In total there were six brought to the table in regards to P.E.D.R.O. violations.

The only other appeal that was overturned was one in regards to Tom Boroujeni, a candidate for president, placing a poster within 100 feet of a polling station. The group of P.E.D.R.O chose not to protest this first one.

“I reality they didn’t lose their position. The results don’t become official until two weeks after elections.”
— Dr. Paul Oliaro, Vice President of Student Affairs

The second allegation was filed by the group Students Who Deserve More, which claimed that Jonathan Thompson, running for a senate position, was campaigning within 100 feet of a polling station, located in front of the Kennel Bookstore.

However, the P.E.D.R.O. group measured the distance to which Thompson stood from the polling station and found to be 103 feet.

After protesting, the ruling was overturned by Oliaro.

The only other appeal that was sustained was allegation six, which was an Election Code 3.9, that prohibited “a candidate for president, referencing a candidate on an election day.”

Oliaro, in the same memorandum, said that upon reviewing his decision, he did not find “any definition what ‘rally’ was” and concluded that “the action

See ELECTIONS, Page 8

WHERE THE MONEY GOES
Top 10 IRA Awarded for 2008-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Marching Band</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Bulldog Beat</td>
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<tr>
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<td>London Semester</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>$26,500</td>
<td>KFSR Radio</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Formula SAE West (Society of Automotive Engineers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$22,750</td>
<td>Baja SAE      (Society of Automotive Engineers)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Jumpstart Fresno (San Joaquin Valley Health Center)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Armenia Summer Study Program 2009</td>
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IRA disbursement governed by rules

Every Fresno State student pays an Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fee as part of his or her registration costs.

“Every Fresno State student pays an Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fee as part of his or her registration costs. The 2008-09 fee money went into a $1.2 million pot, for distribution to campus entities by the IRA Advisory Board. In order to tap the funds, students and faculty from campus departments must fill out an IRA application. Once completed, the application must then be given to both the department chair and the dean of the college from which the program is sponsored, for review and recommendation.”

Michael Jenkins, Ph.D., the dean of the Lyles College of Engineering, makes sure all the applications he receive are error free and are requesting funds for what is needed, not what is wanted.

“I have to be the first line of defense for things that are wrong,” Jenkins said. In the latest round of applications, the College of Engineering submitted 25 applications to the IRA committee — all prepared by students.

The IRA board reviews all submitted applications, which includes an overall statement of intent from the applicant. Each one of the six board members receives approximately 30 applications for review each meeting.

Afterward, they present their analysis to fellow board members and discuss the application.

Dr. James E. Walton, Ph.D., chair of the English department and a member of the IRA board, said that each application is carefully scrutinized.

“The board makes sure that money disbursed will be used for the sole benefit of the students, he said. Focusing on students, Walton said, is of upmost importance.

“We have to stress this is student money,” Walton said. “It cannot go to faculty.”

The university’s accounting office ultimately reviews all the paperwork at the end and notes if there are any discrepancies between what money is spent on and what the money was allocated for.

The university’s accounting office needs to remind recipients that although money has been granted, it is not to be used for some items that might have been requested in the original application, such as food and salaries.

Many layers of review

Steps are also taken by the IRA board to make sure the money is spent wisely. Notes are sometimes made to remind recipients that although money has been granted, it is not to be used for some items that might have been requested in the original application, such as food and salaries.

The university’s accounting office has its own layer of review before the money actually gets to the account where it will be used. This is a crucial step because it is sometimes difficult to determine whether a particular item will be beneficial to the student body at large.

Jenkins, the engineering dean, also puts forth an effort to make sure money is responsibly used.

“It’s (the faculty’s) job to be responsible for student money,” Jenkins said. “We need to make sure it’s not getting wasted.”

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Illustration by Heather Billings / The Collegian
IRA Committee: Faculty and Staff Profiles

James Walton

By Ben Keiter
The Collegian

James E. Walton, Ph.D, knows ambition when he sees it. Currently one-sixth of the board that divides up Instructional Related Activities (IRA) funds, here to coordinate classroom- and university-related activities, Walton is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice. Walton received his bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Michigan. After graduating from Fresno State in 1971 with a degree in journalism, he got a call from John Welty, who teaches in the English Department and also serves on the IRA board. “I got a call from John Welty,” said the assistant professor, who teaches in the English Department and also serves on the IRA board. “It felt good that we could really accommodate someone, and that was really helpful.”

At 8 a.m. on a recent Monday, the large conference room that Associated Students, Inc. meets in was almost empty. The Collegian is a forum for relevant discussions, and the faculty and student members of the IRA committee gathered to begin the day. “It’s a very busy time of the year,” said Betsy Hayes, the English Department and also serves on the IRA board. “We have a lot of applications in here,” she said. “We’re looking at different types of IRA activities will most likely receive funding.”

Betsy Hayes

By Sarah A. Peterson
The Collegian

All it took was a single phone call, and Betsy Hayes found herself a member of the Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) Advisory Board. “I got a call from John Welty,” said the assistant professor, who teaches in the English Department and also serves on the IRA board. “It felt good that we could really accommodate someone, and that was really helpful.”

The Collegian interviewed each committee member and asked him to review a close look at whether or not the idea of spending a chunk of their student fee is important, especially when deciding what types of IRA activities will most benefit students. “Students’ opinions are very important. That’s why we have a student chairing the committee. Probably my main goal is to help the committee make decisions on what’s important, especially when deciding what types of IRA activities will most benefit students,” Hayes said. “It’s a really busy time of the year,” she said. “We look at every proposal on an individual basis and at all of the different types of IRA activities that we’re looking at.”

The importance of education and discipline to apply.

The others pulled out binders approximately six inches thick and began flipping through them page by page. Each page contained their notes, which were often filled with details.

James Walton

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE FACULTY AND STAFF ON THE IRA COMMITTEE

By Heather Billings
The Collegian

When deciding who gets what amount of money, he looks at past years’ policies and coordinates the accounts.

“Nothing goes without student opinion does matter and is important, especially when deciding what types of IRA activities will most benefit students.”

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The importance of education and discipline to apply.
**RULES:** Limits exist for what IRA money can be for

“There’s a fine line between what a school funds from their general pot — from donations and other funds — versus what the IRA can pay for.”

— John Waayers, University Budget Officer

**CONTINUED from page 5**

misstep.”

After a project is awarded, for example, Jenkins said that the College of Engineering uses purchase requests to see what’s being bought. A faculty adviser must sign the requests. Jenkins, as the dean, is then the last person to see the requests before the money is disbursed.

**Funding provides benefits**

Before getting IRA money, engineering students had to provide the funds themselves for a trip to Cambodia, where they spend winter breaks teaching classes in civil engineering.

“It’s like Doctors Without Borders, except engineering,” Jenkins explained.

In the project’s second year, IRA money funded the trip to Cambodia. The Society of Women Engineers was then able to attend national and international events, not just regional. Students were able to attend a bridge-building symposium.

“It has allowed us to fund high level extracurricular activities,” Jenkins said.

In the College of Arts & Humanities, the theatre arts department uses IRA funding for play productions, while the theatre arts department uses IRA funding for extracurricular activities, Jenkins added.

**A formal awards process**

The IRA board, then, ultimately controls the allocation of funds, keeping a 5 percent emergency contingency reserve each funding period. John Waayers, the university’s budget officer, is then often one of the last stops for the funding in Academic Affairs.

“There’s a fine line between what a school funds from their general pot — from donations and other funds — versus what the IRA can pay for,” said Waayers, who is also on the IRA Advisory Board.

Once the IRA board decides on allocations, their funding recommendations are forwarded to University President John D. Welty for final approval.

**ELECTIONS:** Oliaro to urge ASI senate to review Election Code

**CONTINUED from page 5**

described in the allegation would more likely fall under the category of formal and informal campaigning in section 3.2 of the Election Code, and therefore the allegation was sustained.

Oliaro went on to say that because the Election Code does not sufficiently clarify how to address these types of issues and because not all candidates disqualified were directly related to the incidents, he has decided to uphold his decision to disqualify those who were directly connected to the violations.

“It’s hard even to get students out to vote, so when you overturn that vote, there needs to be very, very compelling reasons as to why.”

— Dr. Paul Oliaro, Vice President of Student Affairs

For this reasoning, as well, he stated that he has overturned the decision of disqualification for those that were not involved.

Oliaro said that he will be sending out a separate memorandum to the ASI senate and to the Election Commission “urging them to review the Election Code and Student Court by-laws,” so that any future challenging decisions might be avoided.

As for those candidates who took the disqualified students’ positions, Oliaro said that he does feel bad.

“In reality they didn’t lose their position,” Oliaro said.

“The results don’t become official until two weeks after elections. Although the violations were overturned, Oliaro said that he didn’t come to the decision easily. “It was a very difficult decision,” Oliaro said.

“We hold in high regard student votes and voices. It’s hard even to get students out to vote, so when you overturn that vote, there needs to be some very, very compelling reasons as to why.”

— Dr. Paul Oliaro, Vice President of Student Affairs
The Soloist: book versus film

By Victoria L. Jones
The Collegian

“The Soloist,” is a testament to the rewards of consistency and perseverance: it highlights the impact of a journalist’s voice and the hearts of his readers.

Written by Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez, “The Soloist” is a book based on a true story that was adapted to film. Lopez began writing on homeless man Nathaniel Ayers because of his astonishing situation and the story that went along with it.

Prior to living on the streets, Ayers, a black man, attended New York’s infamous Julliard school of music but was forced to walk away from a promising career as a distinguished musician because of the onset of schizophrenia.

The idiosyncrasies of the movie versus the book were expected, but I felt the movie played up more dramatically, with an obvious second-rate friends.

In the book Ayers sat, just as he had many times before in the shadow of his idol Beethoven. In the movie Ayers sat directly underneath the statue, but in the street he was situated across the street from the monument.

In the book Lopez seems much more like reading books.

In the movie Lopez said nonchalantly and extended his hand while proclaiming his honor to be a friend of Ayers.

I felt that I enjoyed the movie more because I had read the book. Questions that I would have asked of the movie were answered with the knowledge I’d previously gained from the book.

Though the book was better than the movie for me, I would still recommend the movie, especially to those who don’t like reading books.

I also did not think Lopez was as desperate as the movie played him out to be.

In the movie Lopez seemed overly troubled. He was divorced with a son in college and his ex-wife as his editor.

Although the movie sped through a friendship that developed over two years, the intensity of that relationship was easily felt in the theater during the reconciliation scene at the end.

After a blow-up fight, Ayers was astonished by Lopez’s desire to still be friends.

“Friends piss each other off,” Lopez said nonchalantly and extended his hand while proclaiming his honor to be a friend of Ayers.

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Women’s tennis ace Melanie Gloria and her team were the No. 16 seeded team in the NCAA Tournament and expected to be hosting the first round, but instead will travel to Illinois.

“We traveled a lot, picked up some really bad habits and we were tested in the finals,” Thibodeau said. “They brought their ‘A’ game and we survived by the skin of our teeth.”

But for the Bulldogs travel hasn’t been much of an obstacle, having won eight of their last nine away games. “We’ve been on the road for so long, this isn’t going to stop us from beating teams,” Thibodeau said.

The 2,127 mile trek to Urbana will not only be exhausting for the players, who have just completed a long road trip that included stops in Las Cruces, Reno and Honolulu, but also for the financial reserves of Fresno State’s athletic department. Expenses for the tournament will include airline tickets, lodging and food.

“We will be helping out the economy for sure, because we’ll be spending a lot of money to go over there,” Thibodeau said. “They’re tough, well coached and they will definitely give all they have.”

Fresno State is in a four-team region that includes E. Kentucky, Vanderbilt and Illinois. The winner of the first-round match between Fresno State and Eastern Kentucky will face the winner of No. 19 ranked Vanderbilt or No. 34 ranked Illinois.

Thibodeau says he feels confident about his team’s chances, despite not having the home-court advantage, against E. Kentucky and Vanderbilt or Illinois afterwards.

“In the tournament, we just have to take it one match at a time, but I feel good about our chance,” Thibodeau said. “We have worked really hard during the off-season to get to this point where we can be in the round of Top 16.”

Last year, Fresno State defeated Lamar, 4-0, and Arizona State, 4-1, before losing to Northwestern 4-1. This year, Kucerkova feels the team will make it into the final round of 16.

“We basically have the same team, so we know each other really well,” Kucerkova said. “Our wins have been well deserved and I have an amazing feeling.”

The first and second rounds of the 2009 Division I NCAA Tennis Championships are slated to begin May 8-9 at 16 universities across the country. The championship finals will be held May 14-25 at Texas A&M. While the team finals take place between May 14-19 and the individual singles and doubles are scheduled for May 20-25.

The automatic bid marked the 14th consecutive appearance in the tournament for Fresno State. But for the team’s five seniors, including No. 16 Melanie Gloria, last weekend’s game signified the last home match they would play at Fresno State.

“It’s disappointing for our seniors who could have had their last home match in front of their family and fans,” said Thibodeau. “They really deserved to host.”
The Bulldogs have been strong at home, where they have lost only nine games en route to a 19-9 overall home record. The Rainbows, who are 6-7 on the road, will play their last road game against the Bulldogs, before they finish the season against Utah Valley at home.

The Bulldogs finish the season on the road against Sacramento State and look to finish on a good note. "We’re all healthy and we’re going to finish strong," Grubb said.

Fresno State still has an opportunity to go far in the postseason, which includes a shot at a WAC championship.

"We’re going to fight these last ones out, the WAC championship is right in front of us," Batesole said.

Both Fresno State and Hawaii are within striking distance of leading the WAC heading into the conference tournament, which starts May 20.

The Rainbows are two games out of first place in a conference that has the first and last place teams separated by only 3.5 games.

The Bulldogs head into the series 3.5 games behind the Nevada Wolf Pack, becoming the top-seeded team going into the WAC Tournament, which is quite impressive since the Bulldogs would be the last seeded team if the season were to end today.

Fresno State split four games with the Wolf Pack last weekend.

The Bulldogs are ahead of Sacramento State for the final spot in the WAC tournament, so the remaining games are crucial for the team if they are going to repeat as conference champions.

Fresno State is seeking its fourth straight regular season and conference tournament championship.

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Senior Holden Sprague is stepping up for the Bulldogs in the final weeks of the regular season. Not only is he the ace of the rotation, but he has volunteered to close out games as well.

WAC: ’Dogs set to face La. Tech today at 2 p.m.

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nament, Fresno State earned a bye in the double-elimination tournament by winning the regular-season title. Wright made it clear she was unhappy with the early start time. She considered it an undeserved punishment for the conference’s top-seeded team, saying, “I think the conference really needs to re-evaluate when the No. 1 seeds play.”

Asked if she thought the early start time would hurt the program financially, she responded, “I was more concerned about [the players] missing class.”

Next up for the Bulldogs is Louisiana Tech today at 2 p.m. The Lady Techsters beat Hawaii 7-1 on day one of the tournament and blanked Nevada 4-0 in Thursday’s afternoon game.

Louisiana Tech is led by pitcher Meghan Krieg, who has allowed only one run in two complete games so far in the tournament.

The WAC Tournament concludes Saturday with games at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Wright said, “The first one is always the toughest.” If she’s right, No. 25 Fresno State should win another conference championship and advance to the NCAA Tournament.

COMMENT: The Collegian is a forum for student expression. http://collegian.csufresno.edu
Men’s basketball finally drops 611 APR score

By Collegian Staff

After five years of scholarship restrictions and sanctions that left the once successful program in a men’s basketball team is finally off the hook.

For the past five seasons, basketball team has been under sanctions from the NCAA because of poor Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores. The APR scores measure the athletic department’s academic success and percent of student’s graduating.

The scores are broken down into a tangible five-year average and if a particular program has a low graduation rate and scores poorly, the sport will be penalized by the NCAA in scholarship numbers.

The men’s basketball program has been under NCAA sanctions for a string of poor APR scores dating back to former head coach Ray Lopes. The APR scores are measured on a scale to 1000 and in Lopes’ first season with university his team scored a 611. That score is drastically lower than the 925 mark the NCAA can begin to penalize programs for.

The 611 score, which was Lopes’ first season in 2005, is finally off the five-year average for the men’s basketball team. With the 611 off the five-year average for Cleveland’s team, the program scored a 891 in the most recent release of scores.

Even though the 891 score does not meet the NCAA’s standard 925 mark, the progress shown for the past five seasons has kept the Bulldogs from another season of penalty. The men’s basketball team will have the maximum possible number of scholarships in 2009-10. 13.

Check back next week with The Collegian for more in-depth coverage of the 2009 APR scores.

New APR scores

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