



News Release
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Highlights of ABOR Meeting: Approval of 2018-19 tuition and fees; transition terms for President Eileen Klein, and honor her service and legacy; and election of board officers

Board also approves revisions to code of conduct and updates academic freedom policy

Following are news briefs from the Arizona Board of Regents meeting April 5-6. Full board materials are available [here](#).

Board approves 2018-19 tuition and fees

The Arizona Board of Regents approved 2018-19 [tuition and fees](#) for Arizona's public universities, reflecting its multi-year effort and overall commitment to enhance tuition predictability and keep tuition increases low. Arizona resident undergraduate students at Arizona State University will see no tuition increase. Continuing Arizona resident undergraduate students at Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona will see a zero increase, with slight increases for incoming resident freshmen of 3.5 percent and 2 percent respectively for NAU and UA.

Base tuition and mandatory fees for students at Arizona's public universities were approved after thorough reviews of each university's finances and operations, an in-depth tuition workshop and public hearing where students and individuals shared thoughts on tuition proposals. The combined tuition and mandatory fee rates range from an increase of .3 percent to 4.6 percent for resident undergraduate students and from 1.6 to 6.9 percent for resident graduate students. This year's resident undergraduate base tuition and fees increase averages about 1.6 percent, trending downward from an average of 2.3 percent last year.

Transitions theme of ABOR President Klein's report to regents

ABOR President Eileen Klein previewed the board's agenda in her report to the regents and highlighted opportunities for additional reforms to improve the tuition-setting process and transparency. Klein reviewed numerous tuition-setting reforms that have occurred during the past five years and encouraged the board to continue its focus on reforms such as alternative pricing models and multi-year tuition setting. While the board has enhanced its analysis of tuition proposals, she pointed to additional

opportunities to elevate its analysis, such as further review of the impact of pledge programs, improving measurement of tuition costs and continued review of the fiscal health of the universities.

“I am confident that lasting and impactful tuition reforms will support Arizona’s students and families with enhanced access to affordable, high quality education at Arizona’s public universities,” Klein said.

Klein also announced the [retirement of Dan Anderson](#), ABOR director of institutional analysis, who has served the state for 40 years. “Dan’s expertise though the years has contributed immeasurably to public higher education in Arizona. His attention to detail, data mastery and work ethic that always results in the best possible information informs our enterprise and education along the entire pipeline,” Klein said.

President Klein closed with reflections on her leadership of the board for the past five years. She announced last week that she plans to leave the board this fall. “It is with equal parts pride and humble gratitude that I have been able to work with this board, the staff, the presidents and university teams to serve the state and our students and families.” She shared with the regents, “The board has truly transitioned to governance with purpose with a keen focus on leadership that is performance driven, accountable, engaged and, above all, student-centered. The enterprise approach of governance has launched so many important reforms in the past five years, and I am privileged to have been part of this transformational era.”

Approval of President Klein’s transition terms, assignment of at-risk compensation goals and special recognition of her leadership

Last week, ABOR President Eileen Klein announced she would be stepping down from her role to pursue some well-earned time off. In light of this announcement, the board today finalized and signed a [transition agreement](#), including terms related to President Klein’s contract and at-risk compensation goals.

Highlights include:

- A negotiated termination of employment date of Sept. 30, 2018.
- Continuing to hold the title of “president” through Sept. 30 or the start date for the new leader of the ABOR office, whichever dates is earlier.
- Entitlement to all salary and benefits, including the cash balance contribution to a retirement program, set forth in the employment contract through Sept. 30, 2018.
- Eligibility to receive payment for achievement of at-risk compensation goals.

Additionally, in recognition of President Klein’s service to ABOR and to Arizona’s public university system, the board designated Klein with the title “President Emerita,” effective Oct. 1, 2018 (or earlier if a new leader begins at ABOR prior to that date). President Klein was also honored with the prestigious Regents’ Medal, awarded to individuals who’ve made important and lasting contributions to public higher education in Arizona.

“Eileen Klein is an exemplary public servant and Arizona is a better place because of her leadership,” said Chair Bill Ridenour. “We are especially grateful for President Klein’s dedicated and invaluable leadership with the board these last five years. She has helped elevate Arizona’s universities as some of the most competitive, innovative and successful in the country – and as a result of her service, we are well-positioned to take on the challenges and opportunities ahead.”

Regent Larry Penley commented that the job of ABOR president is one that comes with a complex set of tasks, yet Klein always has a positive attitude and confidence in her team during difficult times. Her consistency of leadership was impressive given the nature of the job. “It’s a tough position, but she handled it in an outstanding way.”

“Working alongside the board and our university presidents, she was instrumental in developing a more performance-driven, transparent, accountable and most-important – student-centered – public university enterprise. Arizona’s public universities are now more competitive than ever before. Graduation rates have increased, student success and diversity have surged and the economic impact of our public universities on this state is more significant than ever. We look forward to presenting a full compilation of President Klein’s legacy, but Arizonans should know that she is leader of which they can all be proud,” Ridenour said.

Appointment of Regents’ Professors

The board approved the awarding of the title of [Regents’ Professor](#) to five professors at the University of Arizona: Robert Williams, James E. Rogers College of Law; Steven Schwartz, College of Science; David Breshears, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Allan Hamilton, College of Medicine; and Barbara Mills, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The title of Regents’ Professor is the highest faculty honor awarded at Arizona’s public universities. Per ABOR policy, the rank is conferred only on full professors whose pioneering contributions and achievements have brought them national or international distinction. Additionally, the title may be awarded to no more than 3 percent of tenured and tenure-track faculty.

“These excellent professors and pioneers in their fields represent the best of Arizona public higher education,” Ridenour said. “Their innovative spirit, leadership and commitment to making a difference have already contributed to improving their areas of research and our society as a whole. We are proud to honor our newest Regents’ Professors, and grateful for the groundbreaking work they do to make our universities and state proud.”

Election of board officers

Per ABOR bylaws, the board is authorized to elect a chair, chair-elect, secretary and treasurer for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1. Each officer holds office for twelve months and until a successor is duly elected. Pursuant to the bylaws, the immediate past chair serves as treasurer and the student regent serves as assistant treasurer. The title of vice chair was changed to chair elect by the board to more accurately reflect the role.

The following Regents were nominated and elected for [board offices](#):

- Chair: Ron Shoopman
- Chair-elect: Larry Penley
- Secretary: Ram Krishna
- Treasurer Bill Ridenour
- Assistant treasurer: Aundrea DeGravina

Code of conduct policy revisions

Campus and student safety at Arizona universities is a top priority and focus of reform for the Arizona Board of Regents.

ABOR is authorized under state law to set policy regarding campus safety. Beginning in the fall of 2013, the board, in collaboration with our university leaders, launched [a tri-university task force](#) focused on student-safety best practices. Each university established a local task force to conduct a [comprehensive review of student safety issues](#) and presented their findings at the Statewide Student Safety Task Force meeting on June 16, 2014.

Among the recommendations: an annual review of student safety policies, student code of conduct policies, disciplinary procedures and the continuation of the regular assessment of public safety needs at the three state universities.

In keeping with that recommendation and its commitment to continually evaluate safety needs and policies, the board reviewed for first reading and immediately implemented [revisions to ABOR policies](#) related to the code of conduct.

The changes clarify definitions and prohibitions related to the use and possession of weapons and dangerous instruments on campus, including:

- Adding the definition of “dangerous instrument” to mirror the definition in state law - “anything that under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used or threatened to be used is readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury.”
- Defining “personal safety devices” to include personal alarms, chemical repellents and other devices designed to protect personal safety from physical attacks; and adding a requirement that universities maintain and publish lists of permitted personal safety devices.

“These revisions represent meaningful updates to the policies that govern public conduct and safety on Arizona university campuses,” Klein said. “We know that new technologies for personal protection are developed all the time. Giving universities more latitude to determine what safety devices are permitted on their campuses will allow them to quickly accommodate technological advances without the need to amend a statute or board policy, leading to increased efficiency when it comes to safety on our campuses.”

The board authorized the policy to take effect immediately, and asked that the universities work cooperatively to develop and publish their initial lists of permitted personal safety devices prior to the beginning of the fall 2018 semester.

A more detailed overview of ABOR’s policies related to code of conduct can be viewed [here](#) under Campus and Student Affairs.

Approval of tuition and fee-setting policy revisions

During the past several meetings, the board discussed the need to implement reforms to update fee development processes and policies to provide appropriate oversight over the continued growth and evolution of fees within the enterprise.

Based on prior reform proposals and recent Auditor General observations, the ABOR office proposed a multi-phase process to implement the reforms as summarized in the table below:

	Recommendation	Addressed in Forms	Addressed in February	Addressed Later
1	ABOR should determine if administrative costs are an allowable use of class fees	x	x	
2a	Develop clearly defined purposes	x		
2b	Consider the appropriateness of the fees	x		
2c	Include administrative costs in fee requests	x		
3	Set expectations for student input	x		x
4	Periodic review of fee practices			x
5	Review of all student fees		x	x
6	Consider other fees when setting a fee	x		

A full list of approved phase one and future reforms, including context and strategy for implementation as well as revisions to policy can be found [here](#).

“These recommendations reflect and reinforce ABOR’s continued commitment to ensuring greater accessibility and affordability for Arizona students,” Klein said. “Our reforms and multi-phase approach in which they will be implemented will go a long way in improving transparency within our fee setting process – in the near and long term.”

Proposed Revision to “Academic Freedom” Policy

The board reviewed a revision to ABOR policy 6-202 “Academic Freedom.” The proposed revisions will replace existing language, which address speech rights, to focus on commonly accepted principles of academic freedom and responsibility.

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee reviewed this item at its March 22, 2018 meeting and recommended forwarding the item to the full board.

The board reviewed on first reading the changes, which can be viewed in detail [here](#).

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