



News Release

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News Briefs from ABOR February 13-14, 2020 Meeting

*Board Takes Positions on Proposed Legislation Affecting Universities;
Appoints Workgroup to Study Student Athlete Name, Image and Likeness Issues;
Reviews Metric Targets for 2030; and Discusses Arizona State University
Operational and Financial Review*

Tempe, Ariz. – Following are news briefs from the Arizona Board of Regents meeting Feb. 13-14 at Arizona State University. Board materials are available [here](#).

Board Votes to Support Key Legislation Affecting University Enterprise

The Board of Regents reviewed legislation and took action to support the following bills:

- [SB 1152](#) (medical student loan program)
- [SB 1445](#) (suicide prevention training; school employees)
- [SB 1446](#) (student identification cards; suicide prevention)
- [SB 1492](#) (Arizona Teachers Academy; program pathways)
- [SB 1572](#) (Arizona promise scholarship program; appropriation)
- [HB 2620](#) (ombudsman; assistance; surface water adjudications)

In addition, the board took a neutral position on [HB 2072](#) (mental health professionals academy; appropriation) and voted to oppose

- [HB 2743](#) (event ticket sales; transfers; restrictions);
- [HB 2128](#) (school districts; universities; recesses; coordination).
- [SB 1521](#) (event tickets; transferability);
- With some discussion about the recognized need to support attainment and to expand existing degree opportunities beyond existing statewide sites, the board chose to urge study of the continuing needs and oppose at this time [HB 2790](#) (baccalaureate degrees; community colleges); compensation; representation);

Board Authorizes Appointment of Work Group to Study Issues Related to Student-Athlete Name, Image and Likeness

The board authorized the appointment of a work group to study student-athlete issues related to using their names, images and likenesses to benefit the athletes. The work group will submit their recommendations to the board, through the executive director, no later than Sept. 30, 2020. The board will share the recommendations with the legislature and work with lawmakers to support Arizona's alignment with national efforts, including those being led by the NCAA.

"Because our student athletes are nationally competitive, it is the board's goal that this issue be addressed nationally so we have a single system that is fair to all student-athletes, rather than a patchwork of state laws," said ABOR Executive Director John Arnold. While there is currently proposed legislation in Arizona regarding

this issue, Arnold said it is the board's hope to work with the legislators when the work group has fully developed its recommendations for the board.

While the board will continue to work with legislators during this session on this issue, it took a formal position of opposition to [HB 2143](#) (collegiate athletics; compensation; representation). This position was necessary to take as the legislative system requires a position of opposition, support or neutral in order to testify on any given bill. The board has reached out to the bill sponsor, Rep. Anthony Kern, and will request his participation in the work group, as well as other interested legislators.

"We support efforts to enhance benefits for student athletes. It is also important that our student athletes keep education as their first priority. I'm looking forward to the recommendations that the work group will bring forth to provide clarity and direction for our athletes while preserving the academic mission and integrity of college sports," said ABOR Chair Larry E. Penley.

More information is available [here](#).

Board Discusses 2030 Strategic Metrics to Measure Universities' Progress

Student success, accessibility, research and impact are key areas the board discussed as it considered priorities in setting the 2030 metric goals. Current metric goals, which measure universities' progress against the board's strategic plan, are set through 2025.

Every five years, the board reviews and restates the metrics and associated targets for the universities. Strategic goals in enrollment, graduation rates, student retention, research, inventions and more support student success, boost educational attainment and impact Arizona's economy and quality of life.

"As a board, we have differentiated the missions of our universities and that is important to most effectively serve Arizona and the communities in which our campuses are located," said ABOR Chair Larry E. Penley.

"While there are common areas that the universities focus on such as graduation rates, retention and research goals, each institution is uniquely suited to undertake separate tasks based on its individual areas of expertise. Refining our metrics and goals for the universities ensures that we are leveraging their unique missions to best serve the students and the state."

"Metrics established by the board are designed to increase student access and success and are intrinsically tied to the growth of Arizona's economy," said ABOR Executive Director John Arnold. "This is especially important for Arizona that lags the nation in terms of educational attainment of its citizens. If the state is going to succeed in a New Economy defined by technology, automation and the need for education past high school, it's critical to increase attainment among Arizonans."

The board will work with the universities to update and revise current metrics in a changing higher education landscape. The upcoming revision will cover metric targets through academic year 2030-2031. More information on current strategic measures is available [here](#).

New University of Arizona Academic Programs Approved

The board approved new University of Arizona academic programs for implementation in the 2020-2021 academic year. Undergraduate programs are in applied science in human services; applied science in intelligence and information operations; precision nutrition and wellness; and landscape architecture. The board approved the latter program with the stipulation that the university present further description of concepts and competencies students will learn from this degree at the board's April meeting.

In addition, the board approved a doctoral program in philosophy in teaching, learning and sociocultural studies. Two doctoral programs were disestablished (philosophy in teaching and teacher education and language, reading and culture) as the new doctoral program combines both.

All academic degree programs go through multiple review and approval processes at the university before these come to the board to ensure their currency, quality and relevance. More information is available [here](#).

Arizona State University Operational and Financial Review Details Progress, Strategic Goals

Arizona State University President Michael Crow presented a comprehensive operational and financial review that provides the board information on the progress and results achieved at ASU during the past year.

“Through impressive research growth, expanding opportunity for students in key fields such as engineering and an innovation mindset, ASU is creating opportunity in Arizona and advancing our state’s workforce in the New Economy. ASU and all of our universities make a real difference to the future competitiveness of Arizona with a focus on student success and research that benefits our economy and Arizona,” Penley said.

Arizona faces challenges including a high poverty rate, lower per capita income compared to the national average and lower educational attainment rates. Through the board’s [New Economy Initiative](#), the state can attract new industries in key areas including future communication technology, advanced manufacturing, and energy and materials, President Crow said.

President Crow outlined the university’s enterprise model that is driven by strategic goals outlined by the board and the institution. Goals include demonstrating leadership in academic excellence and accessibility through measures such as improving freshmen persistence, increasing graduation rates and enhancing quality while reducing the cost of a degree; establishing national standing in academic quality and the impact of colleges and schools; and establishing the university as a global center for interdisciplinary research, discovery and development.

ASU has evolved in recent years into a university that reflects the ethnic diversity of the state. Minimizing tuition increases is a priority for the university that is committed to affordability and providing gift aid for students who are increasingly showing financial need with Pell grant recipients at ASU more than triple that of Ivy League schools. Student success measures continue to improve at ASU with the four-year graduation rate nearly doubling since 2002, retention increasing, enrollment increasing and the number of degrees in high-demand fields doubling from 2008-09 to 2018-19.

“We’re driven by the success of our students,” President Crow said.

The board conducts an annual comprehensive review of the operations and finances of each university as part of its focus on accountability and transparency as well as to fulfill its constitutional responsibility to ensure that Arizona’s public universities accomplish their public purpose and mission. The review includes a background report, business plan and an operational and financial review presentation to the board. The report informs the board when making decisions such as setting tuition.

More information on ASU’s OFR is in the university’s [background report, business plan and presentation](#). ASU’s charter guides the institution as a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.

Approved on consent agenda:

- Policy Prohibits Use and Sale of Tobacco and Vaping Products on Campuses - The board approved [policy](#)

[revisions creating comprehensive, uniform, board-level policies](#) that prohibit smoking, the use and sale of tobacco products, and the use and sale of smokeless tobacco products in or on all university property. Approved on second reading, the board had its first reading of the proposed policy revisions at its [Nov. 2019 board meeting](#). Revisions prohibiting the sale and use of tobacco and vaping products on university campuses are in the board's Student Code of Conduct.

- ASU FY2020 Capital Development Plan, Property Items - ASU's fiscal [2020 capital development plan](#) approved by the board includes four projects that advance strategic pillars such as academic success, research and development, and student support. The projects include: building and infrastructure enhancements and modifications, \$20 million; classroom and academic renovations, \$15 million; research laboratories and faculty startup, \$20 million; and the Novus Place Parking Structure expansion, \$16.2 million.
- Approved ASU's request to purchase .91 acre on [Spence Avenue](#) in Tempe for \$2.2 million for university services.
- Authorized the execution of a [ground lease](#) amendment between the East Valley Institute of Technology and ASU for 7.6 acres of vacant land at the Polytechnic campus.
- Authorized two leases between Boyer Bridges Office 1, LLC, and the University of Arizona for the first building in the UA Tech Park at the Bridges. More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).
- Authorized a [ground lease](#) between UArizona and the Arizona Cotton Research & Protection Council at the UArizona Maricopa Agricultural Center.

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