



Contact: Sarah Harper, (602) 402-1341, sarah.k.harper@azregents.edu
Julie Newberg, (602) 686-1803, julie.newberg@azregents.edu

Highlights of ABOR Meeting: Presidents’ and Executive Director Contracts; Proposed Policy Revisions Address Vaping; General Education Discussion; University of Arizona Operational and Financial Review

Tucson, Ariz. – Following are news briefs from the Arizona Board of Regents meeting Nov. 21-22 at The University of Arizona. Board materials are available [here](#).

Regents Approve University Presidents’ and ABOR Executive Director Contract Extensions

The board approved one-year contract extensions for the presidents of Arizona’s public universities and an amendment to increase ABOR Executive Director John Arnold’s salary by 3.5 percent.

With approval of the item, Arizona State University President Michael Crow’s contract is extended through June 30, 2024; and Northern Arizona University President Rita Cheng and The University of Arizona President Robert Robbins’ contracts are extended through June 30, 2022.

The Regents Executive Committee and the board review each president’s contract at least annually, and consider at-risk compensation, contract terms, contract extensions and performance. More information is available [here](#).

Proposed Board-Level Policy Would Prohibit Use and Sale of Tobacco and Vaping Products on Campuses

Earlier this month, [Regent Fred DuVal called on board staff](#) to draft comprehensive board-level policy revisions prohibiting the use and sale of tobacco and vaping products on university property. [Proposed revisions to the board’s Student Code of Conduct](#) reflect revisions that prohibit the sale of tobacco and vaping products on university campuses.

“More than 2,000 cases of lung injury and at least 40 deaths are attributed to vaping. This is happening primarily among young people who may have the misimpression that vaping is safe,” Regent DuVal said. “This public health crisis warrants a comprehensive policy from the board. Beyond policy, I believe the board has an important role to sound an alarm and use our position to drive more awareness of the risks to our students.”

Proposed policy revisions are intended to create uniform and comprehensive 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 unless an express exception is provided by a university president for certain leased property or pursuant to university policy. This includes a prohibition against

the use of electronic smoking devices. In addition, the universities each have policies that prohibit smoking and the use of tobacco products on university property.

The board will vote on the policy revisions during its February 13-14 meeting at ASU.

The University of Arizona Operational and Financial Review Details Progress Through Strategic Plan

University of Arizona President Robert Robbins presented a comprehensive operational and financial review to the board that updates the regents on the progress and results achieved at UArizona over the past year. His report also included university highlights such as providing scholarships for medical students who agree to serve underserved populations in Arizona, addressing the nursing shortage through a new innovative nursing program in Gilbert, the College of Veterinary Medicine's scheduled opening in fall 2020 and the opening of the new Honors Village living and learning community.

Strategic priorities for UArizona include developing problem solvers who are prepared to lead meaningful lives and improve society in the Fourth Industrial Revolution; investing in discovery, research and innovation that tackles the world's biggest challenges; and leveraging Arizona's unique assets as a competitive advantage to become an integral and collaborative member of local and global communities.

"The University of Arizona is well-positioned to move into the New Economy through the education of students in crucial fields such as health care and preparing them for a workforce increasingly influenced by factors such as automation and artificial intelligence. I'm grateful for President Robbins focus on ensuring the institution and the students it serves are positioned for success," said ABOR Chair Larry E. Penley.

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 UArizona's OFR may be found in the university's [background report](#), [business plan](#) and [presentation](#).

Approval of UArizona Vice President of Athletics Four-Year Multi-Year Contract

The board reviewed and approved a multi-year contract for UArizona Vice President for Athletics and Director of Athletics Dave Heeke. ABOR policy requires board approval for multiple-year employment contracts.

During his tenure as the university, Heeke has overseen multiple improvements to facilities, ensured a culture of compliance in the department and worked to boost grade-point averages among athletes. His responsibilities include supervising, planning, promoting, and coordinating the interests and activities of UA's Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. This includes overseeing all personnel in the department, responsibility for all administrative duties, promotion of the department, and ensuring compliance with applicable UA, Pac-12, NCAA, and other applicable policies, rules and regulations. He is also responsible for meeting goals and expectations as set annually by President Robbins.

Additional details including a comprehensive list of terms and conditions related to his contract can be viewed [here](#).

General Education Discussion

As part of its focus on general education courses and how the curriculum contributes to the knowledge and skills of undergraduates, the board received an update from the university provosts regarding their general education planning and programming based on the board's recent adoption of a [general education policy](#).

The policy addresses the central mission of Arizona's public universities to provide education that prepares students to become engaged citizens, critical thinkers and lifelong learners who are capable of success throughout their lives. The policy also ensures coherence, consistency and rigor within general education programs.

"Education at the undergraduate level should provide students with the skills and competencies to succeed in the world and participate civically in society. General education courses provide a core area of study that enables self-reliance among students along with the ability to engage and adapt to changing technological and societal forces that shape our world," said Chair Penley.

In recent years, the board has focused on general education at the universities, incorporating quality markers into its strategic plan and engaging in discussions with the universities' chief academic officers to address this key area of study.

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