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Statement from ABOR Chair Ron Shoopman on Attorney General Lawsuit

“Management of Arizona public universities’ real estate assets is the purview of the Arizona Board of Regents. With the Arizona Attorney General’s latest lawsuit against the board, the Attorney General is inappropriately inserting the courts into an issue of public policy.

“It’s important to state that the board and our three universities follow the law. As the citizen board appointed to oversee Arizona’s public universities, we undertake complex policy issues every day, working to ensure the future sustainability of the universities and to increase access to high quality degrees at the lowest possible cost for resident students.

“As with his tuition lawsuit, the Attorney General has once again turned to litigation without first reaching out to the board to discuss his concerns or attempt to reach resolutions.

“The board shares the Attorney General’s sentiment that one of the greatest challenges of our day is preserving and restoring our ability as a people to work together. Together, we are called to discuss and debate important policy decisions in an atmosphere of respect and a commitment to find solutions that provide the greatest and best benefit to the people we serve. Resorting to litigation before engaging in meaningful dialogue is contrary to our mission as public servants and wastes precious taxpayer dollars.

“As a public body, this board welcomes honest inquiry and review of our work from any constituent, including the Attorney General. This lawsuit is not an effective way to resolve a policy issue, nor is it an example of how we make a concerted effort to work together for the good of our great state.”

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