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ABOR Special Board Meeting: Governor’s Education Budget Items Endorsed; ASU Football Coach’s Contract Approved

Tempe, Ariz. – Following are news briefs from the Arizona Board of Regents special board meeting Jan. 30 at Arizona State University. Board materials are available [here](#).

Arizona Board of Regents Endorses Governor’s Executive Budget, Reviews Legislation

During the board’s discussion of legislation affecting the universities, the board took the following actions:

- The Arizona Board of Regents took action to endorse and work to support the P-20 elements of Governor Doug Ducey’s proposed fiscal year 2021 budget that addresses investments across the educational spectrum, including support for K-12 schools with achievement gaps, funding for rural broadband development and New Economy workforce development. The board’s motion also includes its intent to continue efforts to secure additional funding for the board’s budget request including the [New Economy Initiative](#).
- The board voiced its support of current efforts to address issues related to student-athlete name, image and likeness. The board approved a motion urging the state and the universities to work together to study this issue through a formal study committee to be convened by the board to make recommendations to the legislature that align with national efforts, including those being led by the NCAA.

“Collegiate athletics are unique and complex, different from professional sports. Because our student-athletes are nationally competitive, it is essential that we carefully work together to support a fair and reasonable system for all student-athletes,” said ABOR Chair Larry E. Penley. “I look forward to convening a study committee to collaborate and support the integrity of the collegiate sports and recruiting efforts and ensure a fair playing field for all student athletes.”

At its next board meeting, the board anticipates further discussion and possible direction in the development of a study committee.

- In addition, the board took positions on the following bills: Support of a forthcoming House Bill that would repeal the sunset review process for the Arizona Geological Survey that is no longer a state agency and is now housed at the University of Arizona; and opposition of HB 2332 (charter schools; sponsorship; state board).

Board Approves Multiple-Year Employment Contract for ASU Head Football Coach

The board approved a two-year extension of Herman Edwards' multiple-year employment contract as head football coach at Arizona State University. Board policy requires board approval for multiple-year employment contracts.

During his two years at the university, Edwards led the Sun Devil Football team to 14 regular season wins, including five wins over top-25 ranked programs as well as ASU's first eight-win season and bowl victory since 2014. He was named the Dodd Trophy National Coach of the Week on three occasions during the 2019 season, the first time in the award's history that a coach won the award three times in the same season. ASU's football team in 2017-18 earned an academic progress rate score of 980, an all-time high for ASU football, and the team had a combined GPA of 2.84, another all-time high.

Edwards' existing contract is extended to 2024 and his salary increases to \$3,500,000. His salary will be paid from public university funds, specifically from revenue generated by Sun Devil Athletics. Additional details including a comprehensive list of terms and conditions related to his contract may be viewed [here](#).

Regents Ratify ASU Litigation Initiation

The board ratified authorization for Arizona State University to initiate litigation to collect unpaid rent and other damages from a former Brickyard on Mill restaurant tenant and the guarantors of a commercial lease.

Pursuant to ABOR Policy 1-109(B) "Initiation of Litigation," ASU sought and received approval to initiate the litigation from board counsel, following consultation with the board chair. That policy provides that the approval is subject to ratification by the board. More information is available [here](#).

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