

**ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS**  
Minutes of the Committee on Free Expression  
July 31, 2024

Committee Members present via video: Chad Sampson (Chair); from ASU: Anne Jones, Patrick Kenney, Lisa Loo, Joanne Vogel, and Andrew Kalthoff; from NAU: Michelle Parker, Kimberly Ott, Marco Cabrera Geserick, Karli Vander Meersch; from U of A: Tessa Dysart, Art Lee, Steve Patterson, Chrissy Lieberman and Adriana Grijalva (joined at 11:04 a.m.).

Committee Members absent: from NAU Margot Saltonstall

Also present via video from the ABOR office Jennifer Pollock, Samantha Blevins, Rachel Malefors, Suzanne Templin, and Tom Merriam; and from the University of Arizona: Kody Kelleher.

All lists, reports, summaries, background material and other documents referred to in the minutes can be found in the July 31, 2024, Document File and on the board's website.

**CALL TO ORDER, GREETINGS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Chair Chad Sampson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes (Item 1)**

Upon motion by Chair Sampson, seconded by member Lee, the committee approved the public session minutes of the July 31, 2023 Committee on Free Expression meeting. Committee members Sampson, Jones, Kenney, Loo, Vogel, Kalthoff, Parker, Ott, Cabrera Geserick, Vander Meersch, Dysart, Lee, Patterson, and Lieberman voted in favor. None opposed. Member Grijalva was not present for the vote.

**Review of Open Meeting Law (Item 2)**

Samantha Blevins, ABOR Senior Associate General Counsel, provided an overview of the Open Meeting Law, she noted that the Committee on Free Expression is a statutorily required committee of the Arizona Board of Regents, which is a public body, therefore the committee is also a public body subject to the Open Meeting Law.

Ms. Blevins asked the committee if they had any questions, there were none.

**Review the Statutory Charge to the Committee on Free Expression to Submit an Annual Report (Item 3)**

Ms. Blevins provided an overview of the A.R.S §15-1867 statutory charge.

**Review of and Possible Action to Approve and Forward the Statutory Annual Report on Free Expression for FY 2024 (Item 4)**

Ms. Blevins presented the draft report on Free Expression for FY 2024 to the committee. All three of Arizona's public universities maintain the highest green light rating from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) and have adopted the "Chicago Statement," the free speech policy statement produced by the Committee on Freedom of Expression at the University of Chicago. Each university has policies and procedures to encourage and protect all lawful speech. All expressive activities are subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions as permitted by law. The report contains links to all of those policies. The report then highlights how each university promptly responds to allegations of barriers to disruptions of protected speech in manners that comply with applicable law. The report emphasizes that implementing free speech in communities of thousands of students, faculty, and community members can sometimes produce strong and varied emotions. The universities did experience several of those interactions that the report goes through, but it highlights that even in moments of heightened conflict, the universities encouraged free expression of all viewpoints within established restrictions.

Upon motion by Chair Sampson, seconded by member Lieberman, the committee approved the proposed report, and authorized Samantha Blevins to make non-substantive changes in preparation for submission to the board for approval the August 29, 2024, meeting. Committee members Sampson, Jones, Kenney, Loo, Vogel, Kalthoff, Parker, Ott, Cabrera Geserick, Vander Meersch, Dysart, Lee, Patterson, Lieberman and Grijalva voted in favor. None opposed.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Submitted by:

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Rachel Malefors  
Committee Secretary