

Statement March 18, 2016 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arizona Public Universities' 2016-17 tuition proposals

The following statement may be attributed to Jay Heiler, Chairman of the Arizona Board of Regents:

"Tuition proposals for the 2016-17 academic year were released today by the presidents of our three state universities. We look forward to working with our universities on the proposals, hearing comments from students, parents and the public and carefully examining these proposals before the board votes on tuition at our April meeting in Tucson.

"Arizona and its diligent policy makers continue to move through an extended period of fiscal struggle and restructuring, toward the dual ends of sound, sustainable budgets and intelligent advance of vital state operations. Challenging though that is, every member of the Arizona Board of Regents confidently believes that our three state universities hold a high and strategic place amid those operations; we assert that their mission for bettering our lives, lifting our achievements, educating and forming our children and unlocking our economic potential represents both a constitutional and a moral imperative.

"We begin the annual public review of these tuition proposals amid a legislative session in which the regents have respectfully asked for some modest restoration of the recent, significant reductions in state support. We are grateful for the governor's proposed reinvestment of \$8 million in our newly designed funding model, which envisions gradual restoration of state support to 50 percent of the average cost of education for Arizona resident students, up from the present 34 percent. We seek an additional \$24 million from the available funds in the present cycle, which would increase support to 36 percent.

"All three of our universities have been engaged with their teams and the board over the past six years in an intensive, ongoing effort to find cost savings, establish and grow other sources of revenue, and evolve their financial models. At the same time, we are working toward ever-improving academic quality and student experience. The state's part and partnership, not only as a funder but as a collaborator in this work, will be critically important this year and in years to come."

Tuition proposals are available here: <u>Arizona State University</u>; <u>Northern Arizona University</u>; and the <u>University</u> of <u>Arizona</u>. Key dates in the tuition setting process can be found <u>here</u>.

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The Arizona Board of Regents is committed to ensuring access for qualified residents of Arizona to undergraduate and graduate instruction; promoting the discovery, application, and dissemination of new knowledge; extending the benefits of university activities to Arizona's citizens outside the university; and maximizing the benefits derived from the state's investment in $education. \ For \ more \ information \ visit \ \underline{\textit{AZRegents.edu}}.$