

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Item Name: **Report on Legislative Activities**

Action Item Discussion Item Information Item

Issue: The Board will receive a report on legislative activities. The Board will be asked to review and may wish to provide additional guidance on the positions on legislation as recommended by the Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) its February 17, 2009 meeting and by the university government affairs officers.

Background

The First Regular Session of the 49th Legislature convened January 12, 2009. Legislation introduced this session may affect resources, operations, programming, and other aspects of the Arizona University System.

Discussion

The FY09 and FY10 budgets constitute a majority of the system's legislative agenda for the 2009 legislative session. The Legislature passed FY09 budget reductions in late January. The Federal Stimulus Package, signed by President Obama February 17, provides significant dollars to Arizona which may help ameliorate the impacts of the budget shortfalls in FY09 and FY10. The university system continues to analyze the impact of Federal Stimulus Package dollars on the university system.

The Governor will be addressing a joint session of the Legislature on Wednesday, March 4. Governor Brewer will be discussing the state's budget crisis and mechanisms to address the problems in FY10, FY11, FY12 and beyond.

The legislative deadline to introduce legislation has passed, and the deadline to hear House bills in House Committees is March 6. While new issues may arise as amendments or as part of budget discussion, many policy issues are contemplated in the legislation that has been introduced.

Committee Review and Recommendation

The LAC met February 17, 2009 to review and provide guidance on recommended positions on legislation and legislative activities. The Committee concurred with the positions outlined in the list of legislation included in the Appendix.

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Appendix

The Appendix contains “Bills Affecting Arizona’s Public Universities”.

Recommendation to the Board

The Board may wish to provide additional guidance on the legislative positions as presented during the discussion.