



News Release

April 2, 2020

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Highlights of Board Meeting: Election of Board Officers; COVID-19 Updates from Presidents; Enterprise-Wide Performance Metrics

Following are news briefs from the virtual Arizona Board of Regents meeting April 2-3. Full board materials are available [here](#).

Board Elects New Officers

At its board meeting this week, the Arizona Board of Regents elected its 2019-20 slate of officers. Regent Larry Edward Penley, who is currently chair of the board, will continue in his role as board chair for another year.

“Chair Penley is a leader of tremendous character, integrity and vision and he brings valuable insight to the board with his extensive background in higher education,” said ABOR Chair-elect Lyndel Manson. “We are appreciative of his continued guidance and look forward to his steady and thoughtful leadership of Arizona’s public university enterprise for the year ahead.”

Chair Penley’s background in higher education includes roles such as past president of the Thunderbird School of Global Management; former president of Colorado State University; and past chancellor of the Colorado State University system. He is a former dean of the W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University and was a professor of management and Robert Herberger Arizona Heritage Chaired Professor. Chair Penley has held academic positions in Venezuela and Mexico, developed educational programs in partnership with institutions in China and Mexico and is professor emeritus at ASU.

Additional board officers for 2020-21 are:

- Chair-Elect: Lyndel Manson
- Secretary: Karrin Taylor Robson
- Treasurer: Ron Shoopman
- Assistant Treasurer: Anthony Rusk

ABOR bylaws authorize the board to elect a chair, chair-elect, secretary and treasurer for the upcoming fiscal year, beginning July 1. More information is available [here](#).

Universities Step Up To Address COVID-19 Pandemic

Presidents of Arizona public universities updated the board on the latest research and contributions the institutions are making in the fight against COVID-19.

“I want to personally thank each president, their faculty and staff for what I know has been a tremendous effort to really address this crisis and to do so in a way that is contributing to the health and welfare of Arizonans,” Chair Penley said.

Examples of efforts underway to aid in pandemic mitigation include:

- Arizona State University has designed a robotic, high-speed COVID-19 testing platform for the virus; more than 100 research groups are organized around COVID-19 efforts; and the Biodesign Institute is researching a global serology test for proteins of all known human coronavirus strains that eventually could point to which proteins could be useful for vaccines.
- NAU scientists are engaged in research and outreach in areas such as: Working with UArizona on genomic sequencing of the virus; modelling the impact of the pandemic on hospital capacity; and modelling economic impacts of COVID-19 on the Flagstaff region.
- UArizona is producing thousands of test kits for COVID-19, providing tests to Banner Health, the Navajo Nation and other health facilities. The university has compiled a university emergency research team focused on COVID-19 issues and research, and it is accelerating the graduation date for medical students to begin aiding patients during the pandemic.

Additional information on current efforts underway at the universities to address the coronavirus pandemic is available [here](#).

Board Discusses Enterprise Strategic Metrics Updates

During an ongoing discussion regarding updating to 2030 [enterprise-wide strategic metrics](#), the board discussed updating current metrics designed to increase student success, accessibility, research and impact to Arizona in a changing higher education landscape.

Considerations discussed in setting the new metrics revolved around the student experience and how graduates' experiences and outcomes are measured. Research impact, currently measured through indicators such as research activity, invention disclosures, and licenses and options, could be expanded to include additional output indicators such as research citations and measuring the impact of research on the state and society.

Considerations that the board is taking into account in setting new metrics include:

- Recognizing the unique mission and constituencies of each of Arizona's public universities;
- Addressing calls for greater accountability and transparency to ensure degrees retain value through indicators such as students landing good jobs and learning life skills; and
- Moving the metrics from an input/output focus to an outcome/impacts focus through outcomes such as enhanced knowledge and skills and impacts that include a more educated workforce and dynamic economy.

Current metric goals, which measure universities' progress against the board's strategic plan, are set through 2025. Every five years, the board reviews and revises as necessary the metrics and goals for the universities. Metrics reflect the board's strategic plan to increase educational attainment in Arizona, boost enrollment and graduation rates, increase research to benefit the state and world, and more.

"Our metrics provide a blueprint for the universities and the board to improve our state and the lives of citizens through higher education. It is clear that Arizona's workforce benefits from the expertise brought through research and technology transfer while individuals realize better quality of life by earning their degrees. Setting strategic goals for the universities reflects the board's commitment to serving our state and society," Chair Penley said.

More information on current strategic measures is [available here](#).

Consent Agenda Items Approved

Approved consent agenda include:

- The [Fiscal Year 2019 Completions Report](#).
- New [academic units](#) for Arizona State University for the 2020-21 academic year.
- New [academic programs](#) for the University of Arizona for the 2020-21 academic year.
- Amendments to [master leases](#) between University of Arizona and Campus Research Corporation for the UA Tech Park at Rita Road and the UA Tech Park at The Bridges.
- Acceptance of each university's share of the [assets and liabilities](#) under the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System based on PSPRS' June 30, 2019 actuarial valuation reports for each university.

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