



**News Release**  
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## **Arizona Board of Regents Approves Contract for Robert Clayton Robbins as 22<sup>nd</sup> President of University of Arizona**

TUCSON, Ariz. –The Arizona Board of Regents voted today to approve the contract of [Robert Clayton Robbins, M.D.](#), as the 22nd president of the University of Arizona. The vote follows an extensive nationwide search and the recent [announcement](#) of Robbins' selection as the finalist for the position. Dr. Robbins, who will replace President Ann Weaver Hart, will begin his term on June 1, 2017.

“On behalf of the board, I welcome Dr. Robbins and extend our sincere appreciation for his commitment and passion to serve as the next president of the University of Arizona,” said ABOR Chair Greg Patterson. “Dr. Robbins has the leadership and vision to achieve the strategic goals the board has set for the UA, to cultivate and strengthen relationships, advance student success, and build even greater affinity for the university.”

Most recently, Robbins has served as the president and chief executive officer of Texas Medical Center. Among his many achievements at TMC is his commitment to collaboration, cross-institutional research, innovation, genomics, regenerative medicine, health policy, clinical research and more.

As UA president, Dr. Robbins will also serve on the ABOR Enterprise Executive Committee along with ABOR President Eileen Klein, Arizona State University President Michael Crow and Northern Arizona University President Rita Cheng. Under the governance of the board of regents, the EEC is the executive leadership team responsible for management of the universities and implementation of the board's strategic plan.

“The University of Arizona is one of the state's most valuable strategic assets, a dream school for students across the nation and one of the most respected public research institutions in the world,” said ABOR President Eileen Klein. “As the state's land-grant university, it is crucial to ensure the continued success of this great institution – for the future students who will come to learn, the economy of our state that depends on an educated workforce and the global community. I extend my personal welcome to Dr. Robbins and look forward to collaborating with him to advance Arizona's public higher education enterprise.”

Robbins' past experience also includes his tenure as professor and chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine, where he was the founding director of the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute. He has also served as president of the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation, president of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association, president of the American Heart Association Western States Affiliate, president of the Bay Area Society of Thoracic Surgeons, and chair of the American Heart Association Cardiovascular Surgery and Anesthesia Council.

Additionally, Robbins is an internationally recognized cardiac surgeon and researcher whose work includes the investigation of stem cells for cardiac regeneration, cardiac transplant allograft vasculopathy, bioengineered blood vessels and automated vascular anastomotic devices.

“I look forward to joining this renowned institution and working with faculty, students and staff at the University of Arizona to advance student success, increase our research endeavors and encourage a culture of collaboration and entrepreneurship to take the institution to new heights,” Robbins said. “Our primary role to serve students remains our top priority, including creating more opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds and utilizing technology to its fullest for a more student-centric experience.”

At its meeting this week, the board also approved the transition terms for UA President Ann Weaver Hart. President Hart’s last day as university president will be May 31, 2017 to allow Dr. Robbins to begin his term as president on June 1, 2017. Dr. Hart will transition to her role as tenured university professor. She will be on sabbatical during the 2018-2019 academic year.

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*Media please note: Dr. Robbins has indicated he will be available for media interviews once he begins his role on June 1, 2017.*