

BOARD OF
Regents



ARIZONA'S PUBLIC
UNIVERSITIES

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Arizona Board of Regents' Committee on Free Expression Convenes

Phoenix, Ariz. – The Arizona Board of Regents Committee on Free Expression convened during its first meeting today to propose potential topics for the coming year and discuss the committee's initial annual report that is under development.

The committee was created through state statute A.R.S. § 15-1867, which tasks the Arizona Board of Regents with forming the committee to address topics related to free expression at Arizona's public universities.

Composed of 16 members who have been appointed by the university presidents and leadership of the Board of Regents office, the committee also will consider any challenges to protected speech and identify educational programs offered by the universities related to free expression.

The committee is required to submit its initial annual report by Sept. 1, 2018. The report is anticipated to address the board and universities' commitment to free expression through policies and practices; facilitating spontaneous expression on campus; addressing allegations of barriers or disruption to protected speech; and promoting diversity of thought with institutional neutrality. The draft report will go to the full board for approval. Once approved, the report will be posted to the board's website and sent to the governor, Arizona House of Representatives speaker, Arizona Senate president and Arizona secretary of state.

"The Arizona Board of Regents and our public universities have not, nor will they, tolerate barriers to free speech on our campuses," said John Arnold, board executive director and the chair of the committee. "We are committed to upholding the principles of speech laid out in the U.S. Constitution and in Arizona law. This committee will be an important tool in documenting our free speech policies and ensuring those policies are applied correctly. I look forward to working with this dedicated group of individuals on this critical topic."

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