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## Highlights of ABOR Meeting: Election of Board Officers; NAU Provost and VP for Academic Affairs; UA Health Sciences Update; Capital Requests; New Academic Programs

Tucson, Ariz. – Following are news briefs from the Arizona Board of Regents meeting Apr. 11-12 at the University of Arizona. Full board materials are available [here](#).

### Ensuring admissions integrity

In his opening remarks, Chair Ron Shoopman asked Chair-Elect Larry Penley to address the national admissions scandal that has affected universities across the nation. Regent Penley acknowledged that while none of Arizona’s public universities are involved in the current admissions scandal, it is timely for the institutions to ensure that the admissions at each university reflects integrity in the process. He called on the university presidents to examine admissions standards, specifically for the most competitive programs at the universities.

“We have a responsibility as a board and universities to ensure integrity of admissions,” Regent Penley said.

### Board approves tuition and fees for 2019-2020 academic year

The Arizona Board of Regents approved 2019-20 tuition and fees for Arizona’s public universities, reflecting a multi-year commitment to enhance tuition predictability and keep tuition increases low.

Predictability in tuition rates remains at the forefront for students with ASU committing to hold tuition increases to 3 percent or less for the next decade while NAU and the UA continue tuition guarantees that provide students with predictable rates.

Base tuition and fees for students at Arizona’s public universities were approved after thorough reviews of each university’s finances and operations, an in-depth tuition workshop and public hearing where students and individuals shared thoughts on tuition proposals. Additional information is available [here](#).

## Election of board officers

ABOR bylaws authorize the board to elect a chair, chair-elect, secretary and treasurer for the upcoming fiscal year, beginning July 1. Each officer holds office for twelve months and until a successor is elected. Pursuant to the bylaws, the immediate past chair serves as treasurer and the student regent serves as assistant treasurer.

The board nominated and elected the following regents for [board offices](#):

- Chair: Larry Penley
- Chair-Elect: Lyndel Manson
- Secretary: Karrin Taylor Robson
- Treasurer: Ron Shoopman
- Assistant Treasurer: Lauren L'Ecuyer

Information about the roles and responsibilities of board officers is available [here](#).

## Board approves appointment of Regents' Professors

The board approved awarding the title of [Regents' Professor](#) to three NAU faculty members: Professor Julie Baldwin, College of Health and Human Services; Professor Peter Fulé, School of Forestry; and Professor Andrew Richardson, School of Informatics, Computing and Cyber Systems.

In addition, the board approved five faculty members as [Regents' Professors](#) at the University of Arizona: Alfred S. McEwen, Lunar and Planetary Laboratory; John P. Rutherford, College of Science; Dr. Marvin Slepian, College of Medicine – Tucson; Rod A. Wing, School of Plant Sciences; and Lucy M. Ziurys, College of Science.

The Regents' Professor title is the highest faculty honor awarded at Arizona's public universities. Per ABOR policy, the rank is conferred only on full professors whose pioneering contributions and achievements have brought them national or international distinction. Additionally, the title may be awarded to no more than 3 percent of tenured and tenure-track faculty.

## Amendment to at-risk compensation for ASU President Michael Crow:

During its September 2018 meeting, the board awarded at-risk compensation to the university presidents for achievement of their 2015-2018 goals. At-risk compensation goals assigned to the presidents by the board reflect the board's strategic imperatives to increase educational attainment in Arizona, drive student success, create new knowledge and positively impact Arizona.

During its September 2018 meeting, the board evaluated ASU President Michael Crow's achievement of his 2015-2018 multiple-year at-risk compensation goals. The goal for research expenditures has two levels:

- University president will be entitled to a payment of \$20,000 for university attaining the projected 2018 fiscal year strategic plan metric goal for total research expenditures of \$562.5 million with an additional payment of \$20,000 for exceeding the goal by attaining total research expenditures of \$607.4 million for the 2018 fiscal year. (Total possible = \$40,000).

At that time, the final numbers for research expenditures for fiscal 2018 were not available. Based on the information that was available, the board authorized payment of \$20,000 for attaining the "first level" research expenditure goal of \$562.5 million. The data is now available to show that ASU reported \$618 million in research expenditures for fiscal 2018. This exceeds the "second level" research expenditure goal of \$607.4 million and as a result, President Crow has earned an additional at-risk payment of \$20,000 associated with this goal.

### **Board approves appointment of NAU provost and vice president for academic affairs**

The board approved the appointment of Diane Stearns, Ph.D., as the new Northern Arizona University provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Stearns has worked for NAU for more than 18 years, most recently as the interim dean for the College of Engineering, Informatics and Applied Sciences. She served as associate vice president for research and was the principal investigator and co-principal investigator for numerous grants, including a significant role in securing a \$21.4 million grant for NAU's Southwest Health Equity Research Collaborative that addresses health disparities among diverse populations in the region. She earned her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Carleton College, and a doctoral degree in inorganic chemistry from the University of California-Berkeley.

"Diane Stearns has been a dedicated and effective member of the NAU faculty for nearly two decades," said John Arnold, Arizona Board of Regents executive director. "We appreciate the impactful work she has accomplished to elevate NAU, and we look forward to working with her to ensure student success at the university." Additional information related to the appointment of Dr. Stearns is available [here](#).

### **University of Arizona Health Sciences strategic plan update**

In November, the University of Arizona unveiled a [strategic plan](#) establishing a 10-year vision for the future of the university. The plan focuses on goals such as developing problem solvers who are prepared to lead meaningful lives and improve society; investing in discovery, research and innovation that tackles the world's biggest challenges; and leveraging Arizona's

unique assets as a competitive advantage to become an integral and collaborative member of local and global communities.

As part of the strategic plan, the University of Arizona Health Services under the leadership of new vice president Dr. Michael Dake launched a strategic planning process for the future of UA Health Sciences. Dr. Dake [presented highlights](#) from the plan during the board meeting, detailing 26 initiatives housed under the themes of: “future-proof” graduates; health, well-being and quality care for all; aging for life; unlock human resilience; and innovation powerhouse. UA’s vision for UAHS in Phoenix is to establish several landmark centers and programs that build on existing strengths. Implementation of the plan will begin in May of this year. Read more [here](#).

### **New college, academic programs approved by the board**

The board approved a request to establish a new college at the University of Arizona, the [College of Veterinary Medicine](#). The college is the state’s only public veterinary-medicine program and the first new veterinary-medicine program at a public land-grant university in more than 40 years. In addition to educating veterinarians, the college will address veterinarian shortages in underserved communities.

The board also approved two new undergraduate academic programs for the UA in biosystems analytics and technology, and agricultural systems management. An undergraduate program in special education and rehabilitation was disestablished as the university has created three new, stand-alone programs in deaf studies, mild-moderate disabilities and rehabilitation studies service designed to better serve the curricular and professional needs of students enrolled in these areas.

Two new program requests and one unit change were approved by the board for NAU for implementation in the 2019-2020 academic year. The new programs are an undergraduate degree in Indian country criminal justice and a master’s in building science. In addition, the board approved establishing the Department of Physics and Astronomy as two separate departments.

University requests for new academic programs include a description and justification for the curriculum; market need; fees; and learning outcomes and assessment plans. All academic degree programs go through multiple review and approval processes at the university before these come to the board to ensure their currency, quality and relevance.

Additional is available [here](#) regarding NAU’s programs and [here](#) for UA program changes.

### **Board approves capital requests**

Capital items approved by the board include:

- Ground lease for development of new student housing at the [ASU Polytechnic Campus](#).

- Approval for ASU to lease property in [Los Angeles](#) in the historic Herald Examiner building.
- Approval for ASU to enter into lease agreements for office space at [SkySong 5](#).