



News release
March 23, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDUCATE · DISCOVER · IMPACT

Contact : Sarah Harper, 602-229-2542, 602-402-1341 Sarah.K.Harper@azregents.edu

**ABOR Subcommittee on University Owned Property Oversight Reviews Policy Position,
Scope of Work Timeline
*Committee Meetings Cover General Education Quality Review, Health Centers
Updates, Audit Oversight***

Phoenix, Ariz. - Recommendations for principles to guide university owned property use and management were among items undertaken by the Arizona Board of Regents subcommittee on property during committee meetings at Arizona State University yesterday.

“As development activity on university owned property expands, our subcommittee continues to refine the board’s role as fiduciary of our real property assets. These activities support the institutions and have become increasingly critical in advancing academic missions,” said Regent Karrin Taylor Robson, the subcommittee chair.

With an intent to complete its university property policy review by September, the subcommittee’s workplan includes reviewing existing policies in key areas such as long-term planning, transaction approvals and land acquisitions through gifts or purchase. The subcommittee also discussed and moved to the full board its charge and timeline while recommending a name change from the Real Estate Subcommittee to the University Property Oversight Subcommittee to more accurately reflect the purpose of the committee.

Discussed during the meeting were principles for development on university land including enhancing the academic mission of universities through land development; considering long-term leases over sales when possible; and including appropriate community outreach regarding land development.

During a meeting in February, the subcommittee approved its charge that includes policy reform of university property management for Arizona’s public university system, as well as long-term strategies and oversight. ABOR during the past several months has worked to ensure its policies appropriately address university property. Last November, the board approved a real estate policy review plan and the establishment of a subcommittee to lead a policy review and the development of appropriate policy changes. For the past several months, ABOR has explored ways to ensure that its policies appropriately address off-campus and private on-campus development.

“Policy updates will better guide the board’s oversight process and clear principles will enhance the public’s understanding of the board’s objective in developing university land,” said ABOR President Eileen Klein. “The committee spent considerable time discussing its principles for the governance and

development of university-owned properties in the public interest and all for the betterment and support of the academic mission of the universities.”

In addition, Arizona State University provided an overview of its real estate operation to the subcommittee including organization of the real estate office and principles that guide the operation such as partnering with best-in-class organizations, long-term land ownership, and establishing performance milestones and standards.

Read [here for more information](#) about the subcommittee meeting.

Part four of general education quality review series

During the [Academic and Student Affairs Committee](#) meeting, members discussed part four of a five-part series on general education quality assurance at Arizona’s public universities. Committee members discussed aspects ensuring quality in general education courses such as faculty and peer mentoring, redesigning general education curriculum, using analytics as a tool to identify issues, adaptive courseware and learning platforms. New academic programs for Northern Arizona University for a master’s degree in international education leadership and a bachelor’s degree in data science were moved to the full board. In addition, the committee recommended for board approval the appointment of five Regents’ Professors at the UA.

Health centers among Research, Innovation and Impact Committee discussions

Arizona State University updated the [Research, Innovation and Impact Committee](#) regarding its partnership with Mayo Clinic that includes the planned Health Solutions Innovation Center that will include spaces for academics, labs, a med-tech accelerator and health-lifestyle spaces among additional activities. The partnership includes academic, research and innovation aspects to improve health outcomes. ASU also partners with Banner Health and Dignity Health.

A University of Arizona-Banner Health faculty practice plan update covered faculty engagement and building a united culture for the academic division including shared missions, vision and values, leadership development, faculty engagement and recruitment among additional measures that continue the process of building the partnership that has evolved into a strategic organization with a purpose-driven culture.

Universities, Auditor General Updates provided to Audit Committee

During the [Audit Committee](#) meeting, the universities provided updates on their Internal Audit Review Boards, citing advantages such as improving internal control structure, contributing to follow-up processes on audit recommendations and improving risk assessment. Universities’ chief audit executives provided updates to the committee including comments regarding departmental level plans and processes, risk assessments, audit process improvements, strategic planning and business continuity plans.

UA Gem & Mineral Museum

The [Business and Finance Committee](#) approved to move to the full board an item for a lease between Pima County as landlord and the UA as tenant for the UA Gem & Mineral Museum in the Pima County Courthouse located in downtown Tucson.

###