



Statement
June 16, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDUCATE · DISCOVER · IMPACT

Contact: Sarah Harper, (602) 402-1341, sarah.k.harper@azregents.edu
Julie Newberg, (602) 686-1803, julie.newberg@azregents.edu

Statement from ABOR Vice Chair Bill Ridenour

“An appointment to the Arizona Board of Regents is one that carries with it great honor and tremendous responsibility.

As stewards who govern our public universities on behalf of the people of Arizona, we are beholden to the citizens of our state and the students who choose to earn their degrees at our universities. As such, board members are called upon to be leaders with the highest integrity and ethics. Anything less is not tolerable.

I wish to ensure the students, faculty and employees of our universities, as well as the residents of this state, that our board takes our profound authority very seriously.

As I and my colleagues learned of the comments and actions by current board chair Greg Patterson referenced in The Arizona Republic article today (“ ‘Caffeine-induced rage’: Arizona regent secretly taped meeting where he mocked lawmaker”), I wish to make clear that I in no way condone his remarks or behavior. While he is free to speak as an individual, he does not speak for me or other members of the board. We cannot allow his regrettable remarks and actions to diminish the hard work and outstanding results of the Arizona Board of Regents. I will continue to meet with legislators to discuss our work.

Along with our university presidents, we continue to address the challenges facing our state and its higher education system. We will remain focused on our work to ensure the sustainability and excellence of our universities for today’s and future generations.”

###