

UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING #4 NOVEMBER 23, 2020

University Senate Report submitted by Chris Kyselka Agenda Item 7d. Arizona Board of Regents Update

The following are highlights of the Arizona Board of Regents meeting that was held on Thursday, November 19:

POST-SECONDARY ATTAINMENT REPORT

The Board heard a report from the Academic Affairs and Educational Attainment Committee on post-secondary attainment in Arizona. About 52 percent of Arizona's 2018 high school graduates enrolled in a two or four-year degree granting institution within one year of graduation, compared to 69 percent of high school graduates nationwide. College-going and completion for Arizona is disproportionate across demographics, and it also lags the national average.

Strong enrollment growth continues at each state university. This contrasts with the national trend as other colleges and universities had student numbers decline. About 200,000 undergraduates and graduates enrolled at the state universities, a 4.5 percent increase compared to last year.

Current FAFSA completion is at 52 percent, the goal is to increase completion to 78 percent in 2030. An important aspect of FAFSA completion can be attributed to high school counselors. Arizona has one of the lowest counselor-student ratios nationally, the current ratio of students to counselors is approximately 900 to 1, the lowest in the U-S. Among the recommendations discussed, one involves the need for a counselor's academy to help train and certify additional counselors.

COMPARATOR INSTITUTIONS FOR PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKING

The board discussed a proposed new approach to benchmarking institutional performance. ABOR developed peer lists for each institution that have been in place since 2009. The new comparator groups approach is more common in higher education than peer lists. Using comparator groups will provide more timely and useful information about institutional performance and provide for a comparison with institutions that are operating under similar basic conditions. This approach will be useful for routine ABOR reporting. It also will rely on publicly available data sets.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The board also approved its 2021 legislative agenda which includes the following: expanding the optional retirement program to include all new university employees, working with the two accreditation bodies in Arizona that deal with psychologist licensure requirements to ensure there are sufficient numbers of trained professionals to meet the growing mental health crisis, century bonds and authority to issue long-term debt for other than capital projects, and the Arizona Teachers Academy and clarifying eligibility of part-time students now that Proposition 208 has passed.

ARIZONA INNOVATION ALLIANCE

The board approved The Arizona Innovation Alliance, a new partnership involving the three universities to enhance public higher education in Arizona through student success, technology solutions, cost effectiveness and sharing best practices. It will be modeled on the successful University Innovation Alliance. The AIA will focus on improving overall student success with a focus on traditionally underserved populations through the following:

- Improve first-year retention, four-year graduation, and six-year graduation rates in line with ABOR-established metrics.
- Increase the number of Pell-eligible students enrolled and graduating.
- Enroll resident undergraduate cohorts (freshman and transfer) that reflect the income and ethnic diversity of the overall population of high school graduates in Arizona.

REGENTS PROFESSORS

The board approved the appointment of ASU Regents' Professors effective December 31, 2020:

- Ferran Garcia-Pichel (School of Life Sciences)
- Steven Graham (Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College)
- Devoney Looser (Department of English)
- Ayanna Thompson (Department of English)

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More information is available at the Arizona Board of Regents website at <https://www.azregents.edu/>