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