

News Briefs from ABOR February 13-14, 2020 Meeting

Tempe, Ariz. Following are news briefs from the Arizona Board of Regents meeting Feb. 13-14 at Arizona State University. Board materials are available [here](#).

Board Votes to Support Key Legislation Affecting University Enterprise

The Board of Regents reviewed legislation and took action to support the following bills:

developed its recommendations for the board.

While the board will continue to work with legislators during this session on this issue, it took a formal position of opposition to [HB 2143](#) (collegiate athletics; compensation; representation). This position was necessary to take as the legislative system requires a position of opposition, support or neutral in order to testify on any given bill. The board has reached out to the bill sponsor, Rep. Anthony Kern, and will request his participation

In addition, the board approved a doctoral program in philosophy in teaching, learning and sociocultural studies. Two doctoral programs were disestablished (philosophy in teaching and teacher education and language, reading and culture) as the new doctoral program combines both.

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. More information is available [here](#).

Arizona State University Operational and Financial Review Details Progress, Strategic Goals

Arizona State University President Michael Crow presented a comprehensive operational and financial review that provides the board information on the progress and results achieved at ASU during the past year.

University President Michael Crow said ASU is a leader in the New Economy. ASU and all of our universities make a real difference to the future competitiveness of Arizona with a focus on student success and research that benefits our economy and Arizona.

Arizona faces challenges including a high poverty rate, lower per capita income compared to the national average. Through the [New Economy Initiative](#), the state can attract new industries in key areas including future communication technology, advanced manufacturing, and energy and materials, President Crow said.

ASU is committed to achieving the strategic goals outlined by the board and the institution. Goals include demonstrating leadership in academic excellence and accessibility through measures such as improving freshmen persistence, increasing graduation rates and enhancing quality while reducing the cost of a degree; establishing national standing in academic quality and the impact of colleges and schools; and establishing the university as a global center for interdisciplinary research, discovery and development.

ASU has evolved in recent years into a university that reflects the ethnic diversity of the state. Minimizing tuition increases is a priority for the university that is committed to affordability and providing gift aid for students who are increasingly showing financial need with Pell grant recipients at ASU more than triple that of Ivy League schools. Student success measures continue to improve at ASU with the four-year graduation rate nearly doubling since 2002, retention increasing, enrollment increasing and the number of degrees in high-demand fields doubling from 2008-09 to 2018-19.

The board conducts an annual comprehensive review of the operations and finances of each university as part of its focus on accountability and transparency as well as to fulfill its constitutional responsibility to ensure that public universities accomplish their public purpose and mission. The review includes a background report, business plan and an operational and financial review presentation to the board. The report informs the board when making decisions such as setting tuition.

For more information, visit [background report, business plan and presentation](#).

[revisions creating comprehensive, uniform, board-level policies](#) that prohibit smoking, the use and sale of tobacco products, and the use and sale of smokeless tobacco products in or on all university property. Approved on second reading, the board had its first reading of the proposed policy revisions at its [Nov. 2019 board meeting](#). Revisions prohibiting the sale and use of tobacco and vaping products on university

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- ASU FY2020 Capital Development Plan, Property Items - [2020 capital development plan](#) approved by the board includes four projects that advance strategic pillars such as academic success, research and development, and student support. The projects include: building and infrastructure enhancements and modifications, \$20 million; classroom and academic renovations, \$15 million; research laboratories and faculty startup, \$20 million; and the Novus Place Parking Structure expansion, \$16.2 million.
- [Property request to purchase .91 acre on Spence Avenue](#) in Tempe for \$2.2 million for university services.
- Authorized the execution of a [ground lease](#) amendment between the East Valley Institute of Technology and ASU for 7.6 acres of vacant land at the Polytechnic campus.
- Authorized two leases between Boyer Bridges Office 1, LLC, and the University of Arizona for the first building in the UA Tech Park at the Bridges. More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).
- Authorized a [ground lease](#) between UArizona and the Arizona Cotton Research & Protection Council at the UArizona Maricopa Agricultural Center.

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