

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

FROM: President Robert Robbins <http://president.arizona.edu/>

DATE: October 5, 2020

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- I am pleased to report that following the Pima County Stay at Home Recommendation order issued for 9/14/2020 – 9/30/2020, we have seen a significant decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases and the overall positivity rate on campus. At the time of submission of this report, the most recent day positivity rate is 2.9%, the past 10-day positivity rate is 4.1%, and the cumulative positivity rate is 6.0%. For real-time daily updates please visit the [COVID-19 Dashboard](#).
- Last month, we welcomed Dr. Deborah Birx, the coordinator of the White House’s Coronavirus Task Force, to campus. During her visit, Dr. Birx met with University leadership and toured several labs conducting antibody and antigen testing. Following her visit, Dr. Birx cited the University of Arizona as a model for transparently tracking COVID-19 cases.
- The University of Arizona has been selected as the recipient of the Outstanding HACU-member Institution Award by the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities. This national award recognizes extraordinary support of HACU’s mission “to champion Hispanic success in higher education”. I am grateful for the leadership of Dr. Marla Franco, Assistant Vice President for Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) initiatives, and many others across campus who are committed to advancing this important work.
- The official fall census data represents information as of the 21st day of the fall semester (September 14, 2020) and is used to track and record essential student data, serving as an important comparative benchmark year-over-year. Official Fall 2020 census data shows 7,335 incoming first-year students and 2,738 transfer students. The incoming first-year class is 60.3% resident students, 38.2% non-resident students, and 1.5% international students from 51 states and territories and 32 countries. The class is 30.7% first-generation, 27.4% Pell-eligible, 48% students of color, and includes 66 National Merit Scholars, 111 National Hispanic Scholars, and 12 Flinn Scholars (the most of any Arizona university). The Undergraduate Admissions team, in collaboration with campus partners, adapted to pandemic conditions and moved to virtual events and programming in March, a critical time in yielding the class. Their commitment, innovation, and adaptive practices helped us yield this outstanding class of Wildcats.
- As detailed above, our recruitment and retention efforts this summer and fall have yielded better than expected results in net tuition revenue, resulting in my decision to end the Furlough and Furlough-based Salary Programs earlier than previously announced. I look forward to more updated details about the duration of this financial mitigation strategy in the near future.
- In the newly released 2021 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges ranking, UArizona is ranked No. 97 overall, an improvement of 20 spots from last year’s ranking. The 20-spot increase is the ninth-highest jump among all higher education institutions ranked in the top 200 and sixth among public universities. UArizona is also ranked No. 40 among public universities. This is our first appearance in the top 100 since 2009 and our overall score of 61 marks an all-time high.

GOALS:

- Continue to monitor internal and external COVID-19 metrics and maintain the safest campus environment possible.
- I am committed to supporting and engaging in shared governance and have appointed two Senior Vice Presidents, Laura Todd Johnson and Dr. Elizabeth Cantwell, to participate on the Faculty Senate Shared Governance Review Committee. They look forward to fruitful discussions about the important role of shared governance on our campus.