

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

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

DATE: November 7, 2022

ACCOMPLISHMENTS and GOALS:

Campus Safety and Security Update

- Many of us recently came together to honor the memory and to celebrate the life of [Professor Tom Meixner](#), who was tragically killed on October 5. Tom was an amazing man, whose impact went well beyond his immediate colleagues and students, family and friends. Our thoughts are with all of them, including members of the Department of Hydrology & Atmospheric Sciences, who have our unequivocal support.
- I also want to share that [the Dr. Thomas Meixner Memorial Fund](#) was established to honor his legacy, and the family will direct it to a University of Arizona cause meaningful to them.
- In providing you with an update regarding our campus safety and security initiatives, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the nearly 1200 faculty, staff, students, and community members who have completed our anonymous [campus safety and security survey](#). This survey was sent to everyone on campus and had a high open rate. Every suggestion and concern has been read and considered and will be given to our outside experts as part of their campus security review.
- The University has retained PAX Group, LLC to work with us on our assessment of our campus safety and security and to provide us with recommendations. I have asked the firm to be thorough, inclusive, and frank in their review, and I have pledged our institution's full cooperation. I expect that our students, faculty, and staff will be engaged in the process in a variety of ways.
- The University also has engaged Steve Patterson, who recently retired as the FBI's Tucson Assistant Special Agent in Charge and brings a unique and specific combination of training, experience, expertise, and knowledge to assist our Threat Assessment and Management Team with its daily work on these important matters for campus.
- I am grateful to our faculty, staff, students, and community for pulling together to offer meaningful feedback during a difficult time, and I look forward to ensuring we do all that we can to make our campus safer.

Diversity and Inclusion Updates

- Our diverse experiences and backgrounds are our strength at the University of Arizona, and we constantly are seeking ways to enhance our student support and outreach initiatives, our educational programs, and our essential resources to address the specific needs of our communities.
- We promptly will launch a national search for a new Vice President and Chief Inclusion Officer, who will report directly to me. Our search will be inclusive and will commence in the coming days. This position will oversee all our campus Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

efforts; coordinate with colleagues across our colleges; work with the Diversity Coordinating Council; and serve as a member of the Senior Leadership Team. DEI is critical to our mission, and it is important to me. In the interim, I soon will announce the appointment of an Interim Vice President and Chief Inclusion Officer, reporting to me, to enhance our efforts across campus.

- Dr. Alvarez will continue in her role as Interim Associate Vice Provost, working on campus initiatives.
- The Cultural and Resource Centers currently within ODI will move under the purview of the Dean of Students office, each with its own staff and dedicated counselors. We also will add a new position, Senior Director of Cultural and Resource Centers, to coordinate our support of all Cultural and Resource Centers
- Some staff will be relocated from the MLK Building, to allow for increased space for African American Student Affairs (AASA).

UArizona Recertified with the Seal of Excelencia

- The University of Arizona was recently recertified by Excelencia in Education, an organization focused on accelerating Latinx student success, with the Seal of Excelencia.
- We first received this honor in 2019, which was the first year it was offered. We now share the ranks with 30 total certified institutions who are leading the way in promoting Latinx student success.
- This seal recognizes our excellence in enrolling, retaining, and providing financial support for Latinx students, all of which is integral to our Strategic Plan. Over a quarter of our student body identifies as Latinx, and each person contributes to the wonderful diversity of our student body.
- This recertification of our Seal of Excelencia shows that our programs, initiatives, and employees are making a true difference in the lives of these students. Effectively serving Hispanic and Latinx students also contributes to our goals for all of our students and is a critical expression of our values and mission and I am proud that the university is being recognized for this work.

\$150 million provided for a new UArizona Health Sciences Center

- On November 2, Governor Ducey announced \$150 million in state funding for a new UArizona Health Sciences Center for Advanced Molecular and Immunological Therapies (CAMI) in Phoenix. This project also received significant philanthropic support from the Steele Foundation
- This new center will allow us to remain on the forefront of medical research and meet the grand challenges of cancer, infectious diseases, and autoimmune conditions by advancing our knowledge of the immunology of these health issues
- CAMI will support research for the next generation of precision health care treatments, which use new cell- and gene-based therapeutical options for disease. In other words, this research seeks to harness the body's natural immune system to defend against disease in new ways. Immunotherapy is the future of medicine, and this investment will help us develop novel strategies for diagnosis, prevention, and treatment.