REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

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

DATE: May 6th, 2024

**Legislative Update**

Since April 3rd the legislature has moved to meeting just one day a week and the majority of business has been focused on debating the repeal of an 1864 abortion law.

Below are the bills that are still alive related to the university and are believed to move through along party lines.

**SB1198 -**[**disruption; educational institution; concealed weapon**](https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/56leg/2R/bills/SB1198P.pdf)**(Senator Rogers – Flagstaff)**

ABOR/UA Position – Oppose

Legislative Position –Awaiting House floor vote

Under this bill, a university or community college would not be able to prohibit a person’s legal possession of a concealed weapon on campus.

**SB1304 - ABOR; postsecondary institutions; policies (Senator Kern – Phoenix West Valley)**

ABOR/UA Position – Oppose

Legislative Status – Awaiting vote on the House Floor

Requires academic units to post online prior to classes beginning:

* Courses offered by the unit (and accompanying course and instructor info)
* Syllabi for the courses
* Number of students enrolled in each class
* Number of students enrolled in classes taught by an instructor
* Meeting minutes and records of faculty meetings
* Announcements regarding academic unit official business

Requires the Board to extend honors endorsements to students at district schools, charter schools, and private schools.

States that the delegation of authority does not limit the Arizona Board of Regent’s responsibility to execute its duties.

Requires the Arizona Board of Regents and each community college district governing board to adopt an enforceable free expression policy and requires the policy to specify that students and faculty may assemble or engage in expressive activities without penalty or retaliation.

**SB1477 - political bias; grade challenge department (Senator Kern – Phoenix West Valley)**

ABOR/UA Position – Oppose

Legislative Status - Awaiting vote on the House Floor

Establishes the Grade Challenge Department within the Arizona Board of Regents to hear challenges from students alleging a grade was awarded due to political bias. Authorizes the Department or ABOR to require a faculty member to regrade or reevaluate a student's assignment or overall grade as outlined.

**HB2178 - Universities; student fees; clubs; organizations (Senator Kolodin – Scottsdale)**

ABOR/UA Position – Neutral because the Sponsor Accepted an Amendment

Legislative Status – Signed by Governor

Requires an Arizona public university that allocates student fee monies to support the activities of individual university-recognized organizations to provide each student with a reasonable opportunity to select student organizations that may not receive the student's share of the monies.

**HB2735 - ABOR; course approval; accounting system (Representative Grantham – Phoenix East Valley)**

ABOR/UA Position – Neutral

Legislative Status – Awaiting vote on the Senate Floor

Allows ABOR to delegate their authority to approve academic degrees or organizational units only to a university president, who may not further delegate that authority.

Requires ABOR and university presidents to consult, rather than share responsibility with, university faculty regarding educational and personnel matters.

Changes faculty's role in university governance from participation to consultation.

Requires each university to provide ABOR with access to the university's accounting and reporting system for oversight and monitoring purposes.

**HCR2056 – Preferential treatment; discrimination; prohibition (Representative Montenegro)**

ABOR/UA Position – Neutral because the Sponsor Accepted an Amendment

Legislative Position – Awaiting vote on the Senate Floor

Subject to voter approval, constitutionally prohibits the state from compelling an individual to endorse giving preferential treatment to or discriminating against any individual or individuals on the basis of race or ethnicity as a condition of any hiring, promoting or contracting decision.

**RII Updates**

* The team behind [OSIRIS-REx, the University of Arizona-led NASA mission, has won the Robert J. Collier Trophy](https://news.arizona.edu/story/teams-behind-osiris-rex-win-prestigious-aviation-award). Previous recipients of the prestigious aviation award include the team behind the James Webb Space Telescope and the crew of NASA's Apollo 11 mission, as well as legendary aviators such as Orville Wright and Chuck Yeager.
* University of Arizona-led CyVerse part of $20M NSF award to catalyze biosciences discoveries. More can be read [here](https://news.arizona.edu/news/uarizona-led-cyverse-part-20m-nsf-award-catalyze-biosciences-discoveries).
* The Women of Impact program, organized by the Office of Research, Innovation & Impact, is [expanding thanks to a mini-grant from the Commission on the Status of Women](https://research.arizona.edu/stories/rii-expands-woi-program). The campuswide campaign, along with its Young Women of Impact program, fosters empowerment, connection and mentorship.
* The University of Arizona’s [investment in quantum innovation will stimulate more than $220M in statewide economic activity](https://research.arizona.edu/stories/investment-quantum-stimulate-economic-prosperity)and more than 1,200 jobs over the next decade. The analysis highlighted the Center for Quantum Networks, the Grand Challenges Research Building and the Arizona Quantum Initiative.