

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA®
STUDENT AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE
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Student Affairs Policy Committee Annual Report 2022-2023

SAPC Members:

- Cheryl Casey, Co-Chair, University Libraries
- Diane Ohala, Co-Chair, Linguistics
- Charlotte Brown, Ike Russell Postdoctoral Fellow, Desert Laboratory [Fall 2022]
- Ilham Chelabi, GPSC
- Meg Cota, Educational Policy Studies and Practice
- Alane Dy, Asthma/Airway Disease Research Center, Postdoc [Spring 2023]
- Sylvester Gaskin, Associate Dean of Students, ex-officio
- Amy Gaudet, ASUA
- Kristen Little, English
- Matt Mugmon, Music
- Jennifer Ludwig, Student Success & Retention Innovation
- Jenny Nirh, Student Success & Retention Innovation (alternates attendance with Jennifer)
- Jeff Stone, Psychology
- Tim Ottusch, Family Studies & Human Development

The committee's focus in 2022-2023 remained on student success, including basic needs, course materials, and health and wellness.

Major SAPC Accomplishments in 2022-2023:

- Adding Student Success & Retention Innovation (SSRI) representation to the committee
- Gathering & sharing information with faculty about new programs for Fall 2023: [Pay One Price](#) for course materials and a [mandatory meal plan](#) for all first-year students living on campus
- Collaborating on two presentations with the UA Libraries about technology lending for students
- Presenting SAPC's work to the Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee in November
- Researching student grievances, including access to free water on campus, clean dorms, safety, student fees, and other issues, and sharing a 10-page report with Faculty Senate

Highlights from SAPC Senate Reports

Co-Chairs Casey and Ohala submitted monthly reports to Faculty Senate. The reports included recaps of the monthly SAPC meetings as well as important student-focused news and resources aimed to increase awareness.

In 2022-2023, the committee's reports shared information about:

- [CatCloud](#), a new, all-in-one digital hub for students to actively manage their academic and student life, which debuted in Fall 2022 for all University students. CatCloud pulls in information from D2L, Trellis, and UAccess, improving students' ability to view classes and grades, organize assignments and quizzes, receive enrollment notifications, and much more.
- [Technology Lending](#) from the UA Libraries, which enables students to check out laptops and access mobile wifi hotspots, assistive technology, and other equipment.
- ASUA's website, which features many different [Basic Needs resources](#) for students. Tabs highlight [on-campus](#), [off-campus](#), and [other resources](#) related to food insecurity, emergency shelter, health care, counseling and trauma services, childcare, clothing, transportation, and more.
- [Campus Pantry](#) services and hours. Its [Instagram page](#) reports that 1,410 people used the Pantry during the first week of Fall 2022 classes. Any who wish to [donate](#) can do so in a variety of ways, including cash or online donations, food drives and/or drop-offs, and Pantry events. Students can donate using leftover CatCash and meal plan money to buy items at the Highland Market (corner of 6th and Highland) or Arizona Market (in the Student Union), which can be dropped off at the Info Desk. All campus community members are encouraged to share information about the Pantry widely and to make use of the Pantry themselves when in need.
- Extensions of free transit services on [Sun Tran, Sun Link Streetcar, and Sun Express](#) (currently extended through Dec. 31, 2023).
- [UAlert](#) for emergency alerts.
- A variety of [crisis support services](#) available to students.
- [Together We Care](#), a Counseling and Psych Services (CAPS) initiative to help faculty, staff, and instructors support student mental health and wellness. Anyone concerned about a student can call them at (520) 621-3334. A CAPS professional will return the call and problem-solve with the caller about the situation.
- [Cultural and Resource Centers](#), which are moving under the purview of the Dean of Students, each with its own staff and dedicated counselors. A new position, Senior Director of Cultural and Resource Centers, will coordinate support of all Cultural and Resource Centers (see also [here](#)). Space will increase for [African American Student Affairs](#) in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Building.
- The status of UArizona's [Richard H. Tyler Student Emergency Fund \(RHTSEF\)](#). As noted on the website, federal funds available through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund have been exhausted after receiving 42,517 applications and donating more than \$32 million in emergency aid. The RHTSEF committee has returned to its original format of distributing the funding provided through the Richard H. Tyler Endowment and funds offered by other generous donations. The website refers students to other resources, including the City of Tucson's [COVID-19 Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance](#), which had a waiting list of more than 3,500 applications as of February 2023.

- The [Writing Skills Improvement Program](#), which offers free services for undergraduate and graduate students during the semester.
- Student Engagement & Career Development's [LifeLab](#), which offers UArizona students personalized coaching and career support.

Highlights from 2022-23 SAPC Meetings

The committee met Sept. 13, 2022; Oct. 11, 2022; Nov. 8, 2022; Dec. 6, 2022; Feb. 8, 2023; March 15, 2023; April 12, 2023; and May 3, 2023.

Highlights for Sept. 13, 2022:

The committee welcomed new members Jennifer Ludwig (Student Success & Retention Innovation; SSRI) and Amy Gaudet (ASUA). Jennifer Ludwig and colleague Jenny Nirh are rotating their attendance at SAPC meetings as standing representatives on behalf of SSRI.

The meeting focus was on the resolution by ASUA regarding continued free transit on Sun Tran, Sun Link Streetcar, and Sun Express in the new year. The committee also discussed progress by the [Undergraduate Research Task Force](#) as informed by several SAPC members who are involved. We encouraged faculty colleagues to likewise keep abreast of this initiative and take part in any forthcoming requests for additional faculty involvement. A final topic of discussion was Student Basic Needs, particularly the [Campus Pantry](#).

Highlights for Oct. 11, 2022:

The committee discussed [ASUA's Sun Tran Resolution](#) and their ongoing efforts to keep transit affordable for UA students and employees. Sun Tran's free fares were set to expire Dec. 31, 2022. Student representatives from ASUA and GPSC also shared safety concerns in the wake of Dr. Meixner's murder. SAPC also discussed the Sept. 30 incident involving a student and employee in the MLK Building and the letter from the Coalition of Black Students and Allies (COBA).

Highlights for Nov. 8, 2022:

The committee discussed the Student Health Insurance Plan available to UA students for 2022-23. According to the [website](#), UA Online students are not eligible for the plan and dependent coverage is not an available option. Dental coverage is not available either. Our GPSC representative shared that graduate students are concerned about increases in prescription costs and difficulty finding providers who accept the United Healthcare plan. With an annual premium of \$2,765 for 2022-23, premium costs are a bit lower than this year's (\$2,861).

At the Nov. 16 SPBAC meeting, co-chairs Diane Ohala and Cheryl Casey updated the committee on SAPC's priorities and accomplishments.

SAPC members Ohala, Casey, and Ottusch attended the UA's Student Basic Needs Symposium on Dec. 2. The event brought together campus partners, members of the Arizona Board of Regents, Arizona State University, and Pima Community College. Keynote speakers Tim Galarneau and Suzanna Martinez, from the University of California (UC) system's [Basic Needs Initiative](#), shared that UC's goal is to cut food and housing insecurity by half by 2025. The keynote speakers explained how UC works with community, state, and federal partners to support student basic needs, including emergency relief and crisis resolution. Symposium participants brainstormed ways to increase student awareness of available resources, destigmatize asking for help, and make use of untapped campus resources (such as leftover food in the Student Unions and at small/mid-size campus events – food is already harvested from large events for the Campus Pantry).

Todd Millay, Executive Director of the Student Unions, shared that three markets on campus now accept [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) benefits](#) (campus restaurants are unable to accept SNAP). Millay said Highland Market will be converted to a grocery store next summer, offering lower prices to students and employees consistent with area markets.

Highlights for Dec. 6, 2022:

Veda Kowalski, Assistant Dean of Students, explained how CARES Reports work. Faculty can notify the Dean of Students Office if they know of a student having difficulties who may benefit from Student Assistance. Faculty can either fill out the [Online Referral Form](#) or call (520) 621-7057 to speak with staff about any concerns. Unless course accommodation is needed, the Dean of Students Office may not update faculty on the outcome of the referral. This is due to student privacy obligations under FERPA.

Cindy Hawk, Assistant Director of UA BookStores' Book Division, updated SAPC on the BookStores' [Pay One Price](#) course material plan, which is an expansion of the current Inclusive Access program. The new program will roll out to all undergraduates in Fall 2023. Some of the key points for faculty include that faculty retain the academic freedom to choose the best course materials for their needs, and that timely [textbook adoptions](#) are important in order for all textbooks and courseware to be provided by the BookStores through Pay One Price. The deadline for Fall 2023 textbook adoptions was March 17, although if missed, adoptions should be submitted as soon as possible. Faculty and student FAQ pages are in development.

On Dec. 15, SAPC coordinated an email to the faculty and staff listservs about [Basic Needs](#) on campus and ways to donate to or volunteer with UArizona's [Campus Pantry](#), [Campus Closet](#), and [Fostering Success](#) as the holidays approached.

Highlights for Feb. 8, 2023:

Robyn Huff-Eibl and Travis Teetor of the UA Libraries' Access & Information Services Department shared about the library's [technology lending program](#) for students. Teetor explained that the library's tech lending program is one of the largest among 24 peer institutions.

The program was started in 2006 by ASUA Senator Rhonda Tubbs with about 25 laptops. It has grown since then, with about 3,000 pieces of equipment now, including Wi-Fi hotspots, laptops (1,200),

audio/recording equipment, calculators, cameras, projectors, scanners, tablets, virtual reality kits, charging cords, and maker tools. There are live tech counts for all equipment, so students can see what is available ahead of time by visiting the library's [Borrow Technology page](#). The types of equipment have been updated since 2020. When the pandemic happened, a shift to fully remote courses was necessary but not all students had the equipment for it. Through a Basic Needs Survey, Huff-Eibl's team learned some of the barriers that students faced, e.g., lack of laptops, headphones, webcams, and reliable internet. The team then shifted focus to providing these items as well as hotspots for students to enhance student success.

Huff-Eibl highlighted that instructors cannot assume that students come with working, high-grade technology that is for their sole use (e.g., sometimes a device is used by multiple family members). She suggested that there be some standardized way for students to know ahead of time what kind of tech will be needed for their courses.

Highlights for March 15, 2023:

The committee discussed the [Pay One Price](#) course material program, expenses for Pom Squad members, students missing classes before Thanksgiving due to travel, classroom first-aid supplies, and the student emergency fund status.

We also discussed a range of issues put forward to Faculty Senate by a concerned faculty member and their students. The letter, which was assigned to the SAPC by the faculty officers, raised concerns about the Writing Center tutoring structure, campus security, mandatory student fees, dorm maintenance, availability of free water refill stations on campus, and difficulty making appointments with Student Health Services, among other issues. The committee agreed to collect information on each of the points for a future meeting and response.

On March 16, SAPC members participated in the "Technology Access: A Basic Student Need" session at UArizona's [Diversity & Inclusion Symposium](#).

Highlights for April 12, 2023:

The committee discussed the new [mandatory meal plan](#) for all incoming freshmen living on campus, which launches in Fall 2023. Lexi Czopek, the Assistant Director of Meal Plan Programs in the Student Unions, addressed SAPC's questions about costs, deadlines, options, waivers, scholarships, "last-mile" funding, and other details. SAPC will work with Czopek to distribute an informational email to faculty. Subsequent to this meeting, it was arranged that Czopek will present to Faculty Senate in September '23.

SAPC continued discussion of the issues in the faculty/student grievance letter from the March meeting. Members reported back on the results of various investigations into the concerns raised. SAPC subsequently shared its findings with the faculty officers, the letter's author, and Faculty Senate in a 10-page report.

Highlights for May 3, 2023:

The committee discussed a proposal by the English Department's Writing Program to increase instructor course loads 20% and eliminate service loads (the model ASU uses). There is concern this will negatively affect students. Research has been done at peer institutions that shows that student counts for these courses should not be more than 19 (UA currently has 25 in each class, although there was a brief period where a grant was obtained that lowered the cap to 19). There also are concerns about the timing of this proposal, with the rise of ChatGPT and skill losses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

SAPC worked with campus Dining Services to distribute an informational email on May 19 via the faculty listserv about Fall 2023's mandatory meal plan.

The committee also discussed 2023-24 priorities, including:

- Representation needed from the Dean of Students Office at SAPC meetings
- Student representation needed on SAPC: regular committee attendance by ASUA and GPSC members is crucial. Support Staff Sabrina Smith will contact both groups regarding student membership for AY 2023-24.
- Monitoring Fall 2023 student reaction to Pay One Price and the new mandatory meal plan for all incoming freshmen living on campus
- Postdocs' loss of health benefits from UArizona while on fellowships
- First-aid kits for every classroom

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Casey, University Libraries
Co-Chair, SAPC

Diane K. Ohala, Linguistics
Co-Chair, SAPC