

# JANUARY 2025 PRESIDENT'S FACULTY SENATE REPORT

## RII

- **Supporting New Transdisciplinary Research Efforts:** Launched the Big Idea Challenge to seek, understand, and implement transdisciplinary solutions that benefit Arizona and the world. Two upcoming presentation/Q&A sessions are being organized, in addition to college- and center-level presentations as requested. Visit the [website](#) for additional information.
- **Recognizing our Excellent Researchers:** Prior to departing office, former President Biden announced the PECASE (Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers), the highest honor for early career researchers. Researchers are nominated by one of the federal sponsoring agencies. This year, U of A honors Gurtina Besla, Professor of Astronomy in the College of Science; Paloma Beamer, Interim Associate Dean Community Engagement in the College of Public Health; and Kaitlin Kratter, Professor of Astronomy in the College of Science.

## Health Sciences

- **New programs:** Working towards accreditation for several programs including a Doctor of Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, and MS-Midwifery.
- **University of Arizona Cancer Center (UACC):** Recruiting a director to lead this UAHS center is critical. UACC is the only NCI designated comprehensive cancer center in the state of Arizona.
- **Center for Advanced Molecular and Immunological Therapies (CAMI):** Focusing on completion of the CAMI building is a priority. With significant investment from the state, Maricopa County, and the City of Phoenix, the project is well on its way. Once complete, CAMI will be a national research hub studying the immunology of cancers, infectious diseases, and autoimmune conditions. As a cutting-edge translational research facility, CAMI will be the differentiating research center for the University of Arizona in the Phoenix market.

## CIO Division Operational Report

- **IT Staff** from colleges and divisions were centralized into UITS on March 4, 2024. 492 IT staff from campus colleges and units were onboarded.
  - Individual meetings with all newly centralized staff.
  - 63 focus groups with division employees in summer 2024.
  - Hosted 3 All Hands meeting with centralized staff.
  - October 2024 communications to leaders and IT staff.
  - Onboarding and standardizing services for newly centralized employees including professional development and tech refresh.
  - Worked closely with HR to establish new UITS organizational design accommodating centralization.
- **Technology Update:**
  - **24 of 76 units have completed infrastructure migration (ASITS)** with 1,602 (26%) servers, 513 (29%) network elements and 2,875 (12%) endpoints migrated.

- Working to complete migration of department email systems by February.
- Implemented new Identity and Access Management Platform (SailPoint IIQ) to improve access controls for critical university data.
- **Student and Academic Technologies:**
  - Adapted all systems needed to support new FAFSA simplification requirements, in partnership with the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.
  - Supported the Bursar's transition to paperless billing, resulting in an estimated \$1M/year savings.
- **Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC):** Leading university working group for Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) compliance to ensure security of student financial information.
- **Network Technologies:**
  - Designed and implemented network services for critical university projects including Grand Challenges Research Building, Phoenix Biomedical Sciences Partnership and Mt Graham Complex connectivity.
  - Network support for Athletics transition to Big 12 ESPN broadcasting.
  - Research support:
    - LoRaWAN network to support low-power, long-range wireless such as wearables.
    - Turned up 10G services at the Yuma Valley Farm for the Precision Agriculture NSF grant.
    - Developed automated solution to improve location data for e911 users.
    - Network support for the new Real Time Command Center in Admin bldg.
- **Research Technologies:**
  - HPC RFP released on 11/14/24. Held Vendor Q&A Session on 1/14/25. Vendor responses due March 28, 2025. Order expected to be placed by Aug. 15, 2025.
  - HiTrust Certification Project (for HIPAA / PHI compliance on the HPC clusters) kicked off on 1/15/25.

## Business Affairs

- **All Funds Process:** Starting in December, the University began the All Funds budget meetings. Colleges and divisions have submitted initial budget data based on planning assumptions that include both a potential 3% reduction and a salary increase. The budget office is currently reviewing data and resolving any discrepancies and questions. Beginning in February, the Provost and CFO will meet with each unit to discuss budget needs and plans. Similar to last year, preliminary budgets for academic units will be announced in early April. The budget office will continue to communicate any necessary adjustments as data related to FY 2026 enrollments, state funding levels and unit expenditure needs become available.
- **Chief Audit Executive:** Sara Click, who started at the University in 1995 to help create the Internal Audit office and rose to lead the office for the later portion of her 30-year career, retired at the end of 2024. This key role helps ensure that the University of Arizona continues to improve its processes and procedures in support of its education, research, and outreach mission. Business Affairs will announce the hire of a new Chief Audit Executive this week. The Chief Audit Executive leads the university's internal audit function.

- **Yuma Extension Office poised for approval to move to a new, modern home:** The County of Yuma and the University of Arizona have reached an agreement, awaiting ABOR approval in February, for the University of Arizona to sell a small, idle portion of land which the County will use to build a new facility for the Yuma Extension Office. This agreement meets the requirements of the land to continue to be used for educational purposes, and will benefit the university, the County, and the people of Yuma and the state of Arizona.

## Division of Human Resources

- **Career Architecture and Pay Management:** Management and refinement is ongoing for the university's career architecture and pay processes, through the [Compensation Annual Cycle](#) for staff pay ranges. This includes the annual cycle for the institutional [Salary Increase Program](#).
- **Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Improvement:** Improving relationship-building and communication between HR and key university stakeholders.
  - Engagement with university supervisors (over 3,100) including a [monthly meeting series](#), a [monthly supervisor digest](#), and specific guidance based on salient topics or current events
  - Engagement with, and outreach to, college and division leaders
  - Attendance at Staff Council leadership meetings and engagement with other campus leadership groups and community leaders

## Marketing & Brand Development

*Promotion: Enhance trust in and affinity for the university*

- **Produced and launched** the final two ads in the Wonder series; [Imagination](#) and [Health Sciences](#).
- Beginning a project to **refine our brand strategy**, work critical for differentiation from competitors.
- **On Arizona.edu**, specific, strengths-focused web pages/microsites are in development to promote the university's excellence in Space, Water/Sustainability and Health. These will launch in the spring. A new rankings overview page is also in development – targeted for launch in March.

*Growth: Empower the university to achieve its goals by supporting resource growth*

- **Online Initiatives:** We are working closely with the UAGC marketing team to identify efficiencies and employ best practices between Arizona Online and UAGC.
- **Main Campus Enrollment/Retention:** In the fall we collaborated with colleges and enrollment management to overhaul college recruitment email campaigns. We continue to provide ongoing social media and digital marketing/website support for main campus undergrad enrollment. Our weekly Bear Down Rundown email to students achieved a record 73% open rate in Fall '24, with re-enrollment content being among the top performing content types.
- **Trademarks & Licensing:** Through December, royalties are up 17%, driven by growth across key channels, including Campus/Local, Mass, Sporting Goods, Direct-to-Consumer, and Golf Specialty. Our holiday campaign delivered \$46K in sales for the Campus Store, Bear Down Shop, and Homefield with just \$16K in spend.

## GCR/Communications/Events

### *University Communications*

- **Earned media coverage** in December 2024 emphasized our reputation as a leader in research, student success, and affordability. U of A was featured in high-profile outlets locally, nationally, and globally.
  - Numbers:
    - December stories/news releases: 19
    - Media mentions: 12,541
    - Web traffic: 106,754
  - Stories covered included: ASUA's Bear Down & Vote campaign, the university surpassing \$1 billion in research expenditures for FY 2024, and announcement that undergraduate tuition will remain unchanged for the 2025–2026 academic year.
- The team helped produce President Garimella's **100 Days informative video** communication to the campus community and external stakeholders.
- **Upcoming:**
  - The internal communications team partners with communicators from central administration divisions on various projects impacting the campus community. Upcoming projects will include FY26 budget planning process, the release of the Sustainability & Climate Action Plan, and updates on UITS centralization and HR modernization.
  - Working with UITS, the internal communications team will launch CatCloud Employee Hub, a new platform providing employees with news, announcements, tools and resources in one convenient online location.

### *Government and Community Relations*

- **Presidential Engagement:**
  - Arranged Yuma tour for President Garimella on Dec. 16 that featured Senator Tim Dunn and key agriculture stakeholders. Focus was the U of A presence in Yuma, agriculture and land-grant impact.
  - President Garimella attended Gov. Hobbs' State of the State on Jan. 13.
  - The state relations team has met with 80 lawmakers since August. President Garimella has met 27 lawmakers (some in informal settings). Topics include new member meetings, introductions, and the university's state budget request.
- **Outreach and Engagement:**
  - Tomás Díaz de la Rubia and Steve Voeller met with a number of Arizona's federal delegation members. These meetings were opportunities for our new SVPRI to meet legislators, with discussions including focus areas research opportunity such as national security and space, AI and health, mining, and energy.
  - The Community Relations team is helping lead the submission of the Carnegie Foundation's Elective Classification for Community Engagement application, due April 1, 2025.

### *Scottsdale Center*

- The Center is a **meeting and collaboration space** for prospective students, faculty and staff (1,100 in Maricopa County), alumni community (55,000), and business leaders. It is designed to foster industry and community connections in Maricopa County.

- Since opening last January, the Center has hosted 75 events with more than 1,800 attendees. The Center has hosted an NSF Engines workshop, the Arizona Department of Agriculture, Arizona State Bar, the Canada Arizona Business Council, Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, and the Arizona Supreme Court. The Center typically hosts 4-6 events every month with anywhere from 20 to 140 attendees.
- The Center has become a hub of activity for Maricopa County admissions and a home base for recruitment of prospective students in Maricopa County and Northern Arizona, hosting several events for prospective students and parents.

### *Presidential Events and University Ceremonies*

- Presidential Events and University Ceremonies is planning the **President's Installation Ceremony** scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 1 p.m. This is an opportunity for the U of A community to come together to celebrate and install President Garimella as our 23rd President, connect with key stakeholders, and mark the beginning of a new leadership chapter at the university.

## Native American Advancement & Tribal Engagement

- **Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day at the Arizona Capitol, January 15, 2025:** The annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day, hosted by the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations, celebrates the history, culture, and contributions of Arizona's Tribal Nations. This year's event featured a keynote address by three tribal leaders and fostered dialogue between state officials and tribal leaders on shared priorities. The University of Arizona showcased its commitment to collaboration with Native Nations by hosting five tabling booths.
- **External Engagement & Training, January 27, 2025:** NAATE is engaging in external outreach to non-Tribal entities to provide technical training to various agencies and companies and later this month NAATE will provide a training at the Arizona Association of Economic Development's National Economic Development Certification Course: 101 on Working with Tribes. NAATE is recognized as experts in working with Native Nations.
- **Native Languages Campus Sign Initiative: Hia-Ced O'odham – Health Sciences Innovation Building Sign Unveiling, January 30, 2025:** In 2021, NAATE and the Department of Linguistics launched the Native Languages Campus Sign Initiative to increase visibility for Native Nations and languages. The unveiling of the Hia-Ced O'odham – Health Sciences Innovation Building Sign marks the 10th sign featuring a Native American language, reflecting the University's ongoing commitment to honoring Native Nations.
- **2025 Tribal Leaders Summit: Strengthening Partnerships through Tribal Consultation, February 19, 2025:** NAATE will host its 4th Annual Tribal Leaders Summit, bringing together Tribal Leaders to engage in discussions on Tribal Consultation and sovereignty. Tribal Leaders will have the opportunity to meet with President Garimella to discuss their priorities and connect with their students enrolled at the University of Arizona. For the first time ever, the University has more than 2,000 Native Students representing more than 200 Native Nations.

## Office of Public Safety

- **Emergency Management:** Office of Public Safety's new Director of Emergency Management, Louie Valenzuela, started on January 6. Mr. Valenzuela brings over 20 years of Emergency Management experience locally to include oversight of the County Emergency Operations Center during the COVID-19 response.

- **Infrastructure:** In preparation for upcoming campus events and in response to national incidents, Office of Public Safety, in collaboration with Facilities Management, Parking and Transportation Services, is conducting a campus-wide review of bollards and vehicle barriers.
- **Community Service Officer Unit:** On January 15<sup>th</sup>, UAPD launched a rebranding campaign for the Community Service Officer Unit, which was formerly known as the Safety Aide Unit.
- **Emergency Plans:** Training for the development of building emergency plans has been completed in conjunction with EDGE Learning and is being piloted with a focus group of UA Building Managers. Training is due for full distribution in February 2025.

## Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement

### *Annual Giving Overview*

- **Progress:** After a slow start to the year, we saw an uptick in giving in December that we believe will continue for the rest of the fiscal year.
- **YTD:**
  - Year to date giving: \$151 million
  - December 2024: \$63 million

### *Campaign Update*

- **Campaign Total:** \$2.41B
- **Endowment:** \$1.325B

## Intercollegiate Athletics

### *Student-Athlete Experience*

- **Academic Excellence:**
  - Our student-athletes excelled in the classroom, achieving a record-high semester GPA of 3.372 and a cumulative GPA of 3.368 this fall.
  - Eleven teams set new semester GPA records, and this marks the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive semester with an average GPA above 3.0—a testament to their dedication and hard work.
- **Student-Athlete Development:**
  - In light of the pending House v NCAA settlement, Athletics is partnering with campus experts to develop a financial literacy program that includes essential topics such as financial planning, tax implications, legal considerations, and LLC creation.

### *Business Operations and Compliance*

- **Financial Update – 2nd Quarter Highlights:**
  - Departmental expenses are down compared to the same period last fiscal year, despite required Big12 investments and outstanding invoices from FY23 and FY24.
  - Revenue Growth: Increased by 115% (\$14.6M), driven primarily by the quarterly distributions from the Big 12 Conference and ticket sales. \$8.8M from the Big 12 distributions this FY, providing a steady and predictable financial boost.

- Athletics has **retooled its education system** and spent considerable energy navigating and building towards implementation of changes following the House v. NCAA settlement, in which the Association agreed to allow member institutions to distribute funds to athletes.

#### *Sports Performance and Success*

- **Basketball:** both Men's and Women's teams are off to a great start in Big 12 play.
- **Track & Field** broke three school records and won seven events in the first indoor meet of the season.
- **National Champion Women's Triathlon** (a Winter sport) continues to build on this year's success with recruiting strong and has started training, preparing to repeat.