



President's Updates

March 3, 2025 Faculty Senate

- Generative discussions with a wide range of groups on campus and in the community around our **Strategic Imperatives Planning** are making rapid progress. The meetings have been engaging, with much enthusiasm for the university's future. Thank you to all the faculty members, staff, students, administrators, and community partners who have participated.
- Our **Community Relations** team continues to prepare the submission of the Carnegie Foundation's Elective Classification for Community Engagement application, due April 1, 2025.
- Our first **Faculty Breakfast** on Wednesday, February 26, was a success. Thank you to the faculty members who joined us and for the conversation. We look forward to the upcoming breakfasts for the semester.
- **Budget, Finance and Operations:** FY 2026 Budget Process is progressing on schedule.
 - Unit proposals were submitted in late December. The Office of Budget and Planning reviewed all the units' financial information in January.
 - John Arnold and Ron Marx began holding meetings in February for each college and division with their leadership, an opportunity for leaders to discuss their financial performance of current fiscal year, and work through their plans for the upcoming fiscal year. The meetings will continue through March.
 - We expect to provide initial spending authority/budget decisions in the summer, in line with previous years' timeline.
- **Research**
 - Jim Bridenstine, former NASA Administrator, and Bill Nye, New York Times bestselling author and Chief Executive Officer of The Planetary Society, authored an OpEd in [The Hill](#) on the importance of the OSIRIS-APEX Mission.
 - RII kicked off the Distinguished Lecture Series with Dr. Ed Moses discussing the future of fusion commercialization.
 - Dr. Erika Hamden, Director of the UA Space Institute, an RII center, has been named to the Arizona Space Commission.
 - A reminder to campus: please view the most recent guidance on federal funding at [this page](#).
 - A reminder to campus: the [Big Idea Challenge](#) is live with proposals due March 26.
- **Student Communications and Retention**
 - Student Success and Retention Innovation is working with our branding colleagues to convene a cross-disciplinary group of communicators and student success professionals to expand and strengthen retention communications and activities. Student Engagement & Career Development is also helping students with obtaining and preparing for internships, which are a key contributor to student retention and success.

- **Information Technology**
 - UITS formed an IT Centralization Advisory Council consisting of non-IT leaders from across the university in academic and administrative units as well as representation from faculty and staff governance groups. The first meeting was held on Feb. 21.
 - Sent [IT Centralization Update](#) email to all faculty and staff on Friday, Feb. 7.
 - 34% of units fully migrated to UITS-managed services.
- On Feb. 3, **Human Resources updated its HR modernization project website** to clarify goals, status and progress made. Publishing these web platforms supports transparency and context for the university as the modernization project continues, and more changes and updates will be made. HR is in phase 3 (Recalibrate) of building a holistic and strategic HR support model for colleges and divisions.
 - [Human Resources Modernization](#) (updated)
 - [HR Modernization Progress Tracking](#) (new, published)
- **Staff Social on the Mall** is scheduled for March 10 and the **Presidential Installation** for March 25.
- **Leadership updates**
 - **Chief Audit Executive** William "Bill" Harrison started on February 24, 2025.
 - **Chief Procurement Officer** Andrew Brennan starts 3/31, with Ted Nasser's upcoming retirement at the end of the fiscal year.
 - **University of Arizona Cancer Center Director** Dan Theodorescu will start this month.
- **Arizona Athletics continues to demonstrate strong financial performance in FY25.**
 - Men's and Women's Basketball are on track to meet revenue targets. Men's Basketball has sold out six games this season (last five conference matchups), while Women's Basketball welcomed a season-high 8,370 fans against ASU.
 - A \$50 competitive fee has been added to each football and men's basketball season ticket and a \$25 competitive fee for women's basketball, softball and baseball.
 - To sustain its operational enhancements, Athletics is developing a dashboard to allow staff to track budgets and expenses in real time. This tool will enhance financial transparency and accountability. Once finalized, the division will extend these analytics to revenue tracking for a comprehensive financial overview.