



## **President's Updates**

April 7, 2025 Faculty Senate

- **Strategic Imperatives** – a draft will be shared with all faculty, staff, and students in the near future, and we look forward to comments and feedback. We also expect to share the document with our community partners for their comments.
- Marketing and Brand Management is completing the RFP for a partner to help us refresh our **brand strategy** and launching the discovery process, to include sessions with faculty, staff and students individually and in groups. The focus is articulating the university's strengths and clear points of differentiation, in alignment with the strategic imperatives. MBM also has launched **two new web pages promoting strategic priorities**. The first has been requested by the university community, including SPBAC, and provides a repository for our significant rankings ([Arizona.edu/about/rankings](https://arizona.edu/about/rankings)). The second is a landing page designed to celebrate our strength in space sciences ([Arizona.edu/space](https://arizona.edu/space)). Additional strengths pages are in progress.
- Preparations are underway for **Commencement** and other graduation events throughout the university. We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2025. Information about this year's Commencement will be shared with the university community soon, and updates will be available on [commencement.arizona.edu](https://commencement.arizona.edu).
- The **Provost Search** campus visits went well, and an announcement is expected soon.
- The **Installation Ceremony** held on March 25 was a success thanks to the hard work of many employees. Thank you to all our faculty, staff and students who participated. I invite you to review the [remarks of our speakers](#), including my [comments](#), as well as [photos](#) from the event.
- Our second **Faculty Breakfast** will take place on April 17. Provost Marx and I look forward to this continuing engagement.
- Provost Marx and I hosted **southern Arizona state legislators** for breakfast on April 4 and enjoyed a robust conversation as we look forward to ongoing engagement.
- Native American Advancement and Tribal Engagement welcomed leaders from the **Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation** to campus recently. Both leaders met with their respective students.
- **Research Resources and Updates:**
  - RII continues to fund all requests for bridge funding for graduate students.
  - Federal cuts and terminations have continued, with the most recent being from the NIH and National Endowment for Humanities. Please view the most recent guidance and updates on federal funding at [this page](#).
  - In good news, the Big Idea Challenge is on track to be a success, with 72 proposals received and under evaluation.

- **Information Technology**

- **Restructuring IT:** The previously announced [restructuring of IT staff into enterprise and specialized service teams](#) will occur on April 14. The [IT Restructure Advisory Council](#) Meeting met on March 20.
- **Student support:** Students can now find student success staff assigned to them through the 'Connections' page in the Student CatCloud.
- We have launched a project to **move student email off Google Mail to Office 365** and engaged with campus partners on timing and communication to ensure students know how to access their email. Benefits include improved security, cost savings, and more seamless faculty-student communication.
- **High Performance Computing:** Received responses to the HPC RFP on March 20 and began response evaluation.
- **Security:** UITS announced that the U of A will [prohibit the use of DeepSeek AI](#) on university network and university-issued devices. The division also launched the Risk Management Program with a goal of 100% of the units completing a security plan by the end of FY25.

- **Human Resources**

- The division has begun the university's 2025 **Career Conversations** period for staff. Supervisors have received training opportunities and communication to encourage participation.
- **RFP process for a new Applicant Tracking System:** Based on needs and feedback compiled during discovery phases of the [HR modernization project](#), HR is preparing to conduct an RFP for an Applicant Tracking System (ATS) that can streamline university talent acquisition needs.

- **Arizona Athletics financial improvements continue**

- **Expenses are trending approximately \$6 million lower** than last year at this time. The prioritization budgeting process for FY26 is underway, including scenario planning for cost reductions as revenue-sharing models are implemented next fiscal year.
- **Ticket sales performance** is on pace for a strong FY25 finish, driven by excellent outcomes from spring sports. Fan interest has been high, with the Men's Basketball team's Big 12 Championship game against Houston on ESPN drawing 2.2 million viewers.
- **New offerings at Arizona Stadium:** Athletics continues its work to enhance the fan experience, including securing new temporary premium seating locations with on-field suites, improving concessions, elevating night game atmospheres, and expanding pregame and in-game entertainment.

- **Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement**

- The university has surpassed \$2.5 billion raised through the Fuel Wonder campaign, including \$61 million in gifts and commitments in the month of December. Since then, the U of A Foundation has recorded 22 gifts at or above \$1 million, including a gift of \$14.2 million to support scholarships at the College of Medicine–Tucson [from the Gerleman family](#).