

Provost Prelock Faculty Senate Report

January 26, 2026

<https://provost.arizona.edu>

Updates

- **Brian Anderson appointed Dean of the Wyant College of Optical Science, effective January 5, 2026.**
 - Dr. Anderson has served as interim dean since July 1, 2025, proving steady and effective leadership during a period of transition. He has been a member of the Optical Sciences faculty since 2001 and served as the associate dean for Graduate Academic Affairs until his appointment as interim dean. He rose to the top in our national search with 4 highly talented finalists.

Provost Initiatives

- **Yuma Strategy**
 - Provost Prelock along with a group of deans, associate deans, vice provosts, and Secretary of the Faculty Katie Zeiders traveled to Yuma in early January for three days to engage with our internal and external partners. The purpose of the trip was to further explore opportunities for increasing our educational portfolio, our research input and output and community impact including the development of internships and co-op programs.
 - The group is now starting work on developing a 1-3-5-year plan with designated leads for the various areas of interest ranging from Arizona Western College, UA-Yuma, Health and Wellness and more. We will have updates on the progress in the coming weeks.
- **Early Action Decisions Released January 15, 2026**
 - This EA round saw a robust pool of competitive applicants.
 - Strong honors applications representing candidates from Arizona and across the country.
- **New Housing Requirement**
 - Requiring all first-year students to live on campus in Fall 26
 - Launching new Discovery Communities in AY 26-27

- Enhancing and expanding housing inventory
- **Provost Fellows for Academic Success Goals**
 - We received nearly 60 applications from faculty and staff across campus from which we selected one Senior Fellow and six Fellows for one-year appointment. The Fellows will work closely with campus leaders on programs and initiatives that advance the university's Academic Success Goals. Three of the fellows are part of Faculty Senate Executive Council
 - The remaining faculty and staff who applied were invited to continue to engage in this work with 33 already agreeing to participate in the Academic Success Goals Community of practice, led by Senior Provost Fellow, Melanie Hingle.

Senior Provost Fellow

- Melanie Hingle, Professor and Associate Director, School of Nutritional Sciences and Wellness, College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences. Melanie is also long-time member of Faculty Senate and currently serves as co-chair of SPBAC.

Provost Fellow for Success for Every Student

- Amy C. Kimme Hea, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Success and Professor, Department of English, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Jamesia Granberry, Executive Director of Administrative Operations/Chief of Staff, College of Medicine – Tucson, Associate Director, Comprehensive Education Center and Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine (Educator Scholar Track)

Provost Fellow for Research that Shapes the Future

- Katharine Hunsdon Zeiders, Professor, Norton School of Human Ecology, College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences and elected Secretary of the Faculty
- Danielle Barefoot, Associate for Research Development, Office of Research & Partnerships, Member of Faculty Senate

Provost Fellow for Engagement with Our Communities to Create Opportunity

- Karina Salazar, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Policy Studies & Practice, College of Education
- Chad Herzog, Associate Vice President, External Relations and Engagement, Arizona Arts Live

- **Peer and Target Peer Institutions**

- The University of Arizona has a newly established set of peer institutions.
- Peer universities serve as a critical framework for institutional benchmarking and comparison, providing an objective reference point to inform the implementation

of the university's strategic imperatives and support consistent, data-informed decision-making.

- See the list here: [Peer Universities | University Analytics and Institutional Research](#)