

Background

The Senate Executive Committee charged me with informing the Senate at its January 23 meeting of faculty-developed criteria for an open, national, competitive search for a University Chief Information Officer (CIO). I was informed by prior faculty Senate work on cybersecurity risks, IT centralization, peer R1 practices, and the statutory role of elected faculty in governance under A.R.S. §15-1601(B). Before the report could be presented, President Garimella appointed a CIO through an internal process; this development was reported to the Senate last Monday (below).

Motion - for first read 2 Feb 2026

The Faculty Senate calls upon President Garimella to reopen the search for the Chief Information Officer and to initiate an open, competitive, international recruitment process for a professionally recognized enterprise Chief Information Officer (CIO) who meets the academic, cybersecurity, compliance, and AI-governance requirements of a Research One university engaged in advanced research, including national defense–related activities.

The search shall:

- Be spearheaded by a search committee whose members are selected by the elected faculty representatives of the University;
- Be conducted through a national and international recruitment process;
- Be structured to identify candidates with demonstrated experience in NIST standards, CMMC and DFARS compliance, enterprise information governance, and AI-enabled research infrastructure;
- Produce no fewer than three qualified finalists; and
- Include open interviews with faculty, staff, and students, with reasonable advance public notice.