



## President's Updates

March 2, 2026, Faculty Senate

- On our [recent trip to Taiwan](#), we signed an **agreement with National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU) to establish the Talent and Innovation Hub**, which will be a key avenue to apply the U of A's expertise to semiconductor research and workforce development. We also had **visits with major industry, academic, and government leaders**. The visit was supported by our partnership with the Arizona Commerce Authority.
- The **opening of the [renovated Nanofabrication Core Facility Clean Room](#)** marked an important step for the university's Center for Semiconductor Manufacturing. Created through \$35.5 million in funding from the Arizona Commerce Authority, the facility will prepare students for work in the semiconductor industry and enable research and innovation on chip fabrication, optoelectronic and photonic devices, and quantum technology systems.
- **ABOR approved plans for a new residence hall** that will be located at the northwest corner of Speedway and Campbell. Expected to open for Fall 2028 and house approximately 1,200 students, the facility will support our expectation that all first-year students live on campus, a proven predictor of student success, starting Fall 2026. The board also approved a **solar energy project** on unoccupied university land northwest of Biosphere 2 and three new degree programs.
- **Annual Budget Meetings** are in full swing, with leaders from across the campus meeting with CFO John Arnold, Provost Prelock, and finance leaders. We appreciate the engagement of our academic and other unit leaders in this important process.
- The U of A Foundation led a successful **Giving Day campaign**, raising **[\\$5 million in donations to academic programs, which released a fourfold \\$20 million match](#)** to the U of A's Presidential Strategic Leadership Fund from an anonymous donor. The total of \$25 million will strengthen academic programs on campus and support students. The campaign's success was powered by more than **1,200 individual gifts**.
- **Arizona Public Media is moving into its new home, the Baker Center for Public Media**, a donor-funded, state-of-the-art facility located in the Tech Park at The Bridges. Planning is underway for a Faculty and Staff Open House, official ribbon-cutting ceremony, and public grand opening April 30th through May 2nd. Just prior, we will showcase the new facility to ABOR by using it to host the April board meeting.
- In good news for our researchers, the **Clinical Trials Contracting team is now fully staffed**. They have worked through the existing workflow backlog, and new items are being processed upon receipt.
- **FY26 Appropriations:** Five of the six remaining FY26 appropriations bills were signed on February 3. The final bills largely **avoided proposed cuts to federal research agencies and student aid** included in early proposals. Several bills also included policy language preventing the Office of Management and Budget from altering facilities and administrative (F&A) rates.
- This year marks the **100th anniversary of John Button Salmon's final plea for the football team to "Bear Down"** against their rivals. Marketing & Communications has created a **campus-wide campaign to mark the centennial** and celebrate the famous phrase as an embodiment of our collective spirit of resilience,

determination, and shared purpose. The yearlong campaign launches next week with a website that will be active on March 9 at [arizona.edu/beardown100](http://arizona.edu/beardown100).

- **Marketing & Communications worked with Men’s Basketball and Space Sciences to create Galaxy Slam.** The [weeklong celebration of U of A excellence](#) leveraged the national stage of Arizona Athletics to spotlight our world leadership in space sciences, including that of Regents Professor Marcia Rieke. It included a range of events such as planetarium shows, lectures, and trivia nights, culminating with the Galaxy Slam basketball game vs. BYU where the team wore special space-themed uniforms and our space scientists were honored during halftime. The successful initiative provides a blueprint for similar activations in the future.
- **Arizona Athletics will host Career Night** on March 30, supporting the Bear Down Blueprint goal of achieving 100% career placement for student-athletes after graduation. The event will feature a former student-athlete as keynote speaker and include participation from more than 50 employers, providing meaningful networking and professional development opportunities.