



President's Updates

April 6, 2026, Faculty Senate

- The **Men's Basketball team excelled in the Big 12 Conference**, capturing the regular season and tournament championships. The Wildcats, ranked No. 2 nationally, earned a No. 1 seed for the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, where they are [heading to the Final Four](#) this weekend, for the first time in 25 years.
- Coach Tommy Lloyd has **agreed to a new five-year contract extension** at the U of A.
- An MOU was signed that establishes a collaboration between the ACA, Pima County, the City of Tucson, National Sun Yat-sen University, and Kaohsiung City in Taiwan. The partnership will further [advance silicon photonics research and strengthen our AI semiconductor collaboration](#) with industry.
- Our [second annual Staff Social on the Mall](#) was a great success, with about 2800 of our staff colleagues in attendance.
- The **Office of Institutional Equity** reminded all employees to complete required [Title VI and Title IX trainings in EDGE Learning](#), and the University Compliance Office highlighted the [Ethics and Compliance Hotline](#) as a confidential reporting resource for concerns involving unethical conduct, suspected legal violations, or policy noncompliance.
- **Eric Machado joined the U of A as our new Chief Risk Officer**. He will oversee our insurance, workers' compensation, and Enterprise Risk Management efforts.
- The **Office of Public Safety (OPS) hosted the second Annual Arizona Campus Safety Summit** on Thursday, March 19. The event gathered representatives from multiple agencies across Arizona to discuss and advance safety initiatives.
- OPS concluded [a series of Listening Sessions](#) and will be reviewing and incorporating feedback into the Office's five-year strategic plan and guide for future safety priorities and initiatives.
- **Tomás Díaz de la Rubia and his team** met with members of Congress **regarding FY27 appropriations**.
- The **Office of Research and Partnerships Bridge Funding** has funded six out of seven projects that were submitted this semester, with three more currently under review. They have also launched [six new internal grant competitions](#) for FY27 implementation.
- The U of A Foundation is on track to have an excellent fundraising year, with the goal of reaching \$400 million.