



ABOR Legislative Policy Positions

Board Governance

Financial

Retirement

Tuition Waivers

Asset Management

Intercollegiate Athletics



Arizona Board of Regents
Policy Position
Board Governance & Authority

Background

The Arizona Board of Regents is responsible for governing the public universities under its jurisdiction as set forth in the Arizona Constitution and in Arizona statutes. It employs and determines the terms of employment and expectations for the Presidents of the universities and the Executive Director of the Board. The Board is responsible for setting tuition and fees.

The Presidents of the universities and the Executive Director of the Board (Enterprise Executive Committee) are responsible for the management of the institutions under the jurisdiction of the Board, as set forth in Board policy, and subject to applicable law.

Policy Position

The Arizona Board of Regents is opposed to legislation that would:

- Limit or remove ABOR's authority to allocate and expend tuition and fee revenue.
- Eliminate or substantially alter the Board's exemptions from state rulemaking, procurement, and personnel laws and rules.
- Limit ABOR's authority to provide for the maintenance of public order on university campuses.
- Limit the board's authority to establish academic requirements.
- Limit the board's authority to provide for the preservation of the freedom of expression and free and open inquiry.



Arizona Board of Regents

Policy Position

Financial

Background

Central to the mission of Arizona's public universities is access to a high-quality and affordable university education for Arizona residents.

Universities rely on several sources of state funds including:

- General fund appropriations
- State lottery distributions
- Land Trust distributions
- Technology and Research Infrastructure Funds (TRIF)

Maintaining and expanding these sources of revenue is critical to the success of the universities.

Policy Position

The Arizona Board of Regents is opposed to any legislation that would:

- Reduce allocations in State Lottery Funds, Land Trust Funds, or TRIF.
- Extend general fund support for scholarships or tuition waiver programs to other institutions and entities unless the existing university scholarship programs, if applicable, and the proposed expansions are fully funded.



Arizona Board of Regents

Policy Position

Retirement

Background

University employees, including ABOR employees, must participate in one of two statutory retirement programs, the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) or the Optional Retirement Program (ORP).

Participation in the ORP is limited to employees in the Administrative, Faculty, and Professional categories (see ABOR policy 6-602).

At the conclusion of FY 2017, the Arizona State Retirement System was funded at 77.5 percent. The estimated ending net pension liability for the University enterprise was \$1.3 billion.

Policy Position

The Arizona Board of Regents is opposed to legislation that would:

- Require payments to ASRS due to the expansion or increased use of the ORP.
- Limit employee eligibility to the ORP.
- Limit ABOR's authority to offer or administer the ORP.



Arizona Board of Regents

Policy Position

Tuition and Fee Waivers

Background

The Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) is the governing and policy body responsible for setting tuition and fees under the authority granted by the Arizona Legislature.

When setting tuition and fees, ABOR is mandated by Arizona Revised Statutes Title 15, Chapter 14, to grant tuition and fee waivers to certain students who attend Arizona's public universities.

As the name suggests, a "waiver" eliminates the cost of tuition, and in some cases, fees, for qualified students who enroll at one of the state's three public universities.

Students eligible for tuition and fee waivers include:

- Children and Spouses of members killed in the line of duty for the following (A.R.S. §15-1808):
 - Peace Officers;
 - Firefighters;
 - Paramedics
 - Military service personnel;
 - Correctional officers; and
 - Arizona National Guard members.
- Arizona military service personnel who receive a Purple Heart citation (A.R.S. §15-1808).
- Qualifying members of the Arizona National Guard including Purple Heart recipients (A.R.S. §15-1808).
- Non-resident tuition waiver scholarships for students from Sonora Mexico (A.R.S. §15-1626).
- Students who were in foster care at the age of 16 or older (A.R.S. §15-1809).
- Education majors who enroll in the Arizona Teacher's Academy.

The total estimated cost to Arizona public universities for existing mandated waivers is approximately \$1.4 million.

Policy Position

The Arizona Board of Regents is opposed to new tuition and fee waivers unless fully funded by the Legislature.



Arizona Board of Regents

Policy Position

University Asset Management

BACKGROUND

Lands that are owned by Arizona's public universities are assets intended to support the universities. ABOR has authority to acquire, dispose, lease and/or hold real property, or property rights or interests (ARS 15-1682.2). In addition, statute authorizes the designation of research parks and athletic districts that allow the universities to generate economic activity that benefits the university, its students, industry, and the communities they serve (ARS 15-1636).

Sound commercial development strategies on university property is an important part of university governance. Appropriate development of university property benefits the state and supports university academic missions through:

- Accommodating academic and research growth, student housing, and administrative space.
- Locating necessary partners and amenities near university campuses and in university communities.
- Providing new revenue streams.

Policy Position

The Arizona Board of Regents is opposed to any legislation that would:

- Limit or remove ABOR's authority to govern university real assets.
- Limit the universities' ability to maximize the value of land and other capital assets within their portfolios.
- Limit the types of financial transactions available to develop university lands.
- Limit the expansion of research parks or reduce their benefits.



Arizona Board of Regents

Policy Position

Intercollegiate Athletics

BACKGROUND

Arizona's public universities sponsor dozens of athletic teams involving hundreds of student athletes. These athletes compete in intercollegiate sports governed by a complex system involving international, national, and regional regulatory bodies. Participation in intercollegiate sports is a public good that elevates the profile of Arizona's universities, provides unique and positive experiences for our students, and adds to the overall culture of Arizona's communities.

Policy Position

The Arizona Board of Regents is opposed to any legislation that would place at risk Arizona's public universities' ability to compete in intercollegiate sports.