

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AT ARIZONA'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Minutes of the Meeting
January 4, 2024
10:00 A.M., SHR 109

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2024011004>

Members Present:

Senator Anthony Kern, Co-Chair
Senator David C. Farnsworth
Senator Justine Wadsack

Representative Neal Carter
Representative Quantá Crews
Representative Austin Smith

Members Absent:

Senator Sally Ann Gonzales
Senator Christine Marsh

Representative Quang H. Nguyen, Co-Chair
Representative Analise Ortiz

Staff:

Zack Dean, Senate Research Analyst
Sawyer Bessler, Senate Research Assistant Analyst

Co-Chair Kern called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and attendance was taken.

DISCUSSION

Senator Kern offered opening comments and opened the Committee for discussion.

Senator Farnsworth offered comments.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Representative Smith moved that the Committee recommend that the Legislature revisit our statutes and ensure that enforceable policy is in place in each of the following areas:

- 1. Free expression policies must apply not only to students but also to administrators, faculty, and staff.**
- 2. Universities must enforce their free expression policies. Having a policy statement without actionable accountability measures does not provide students with the protection they deserve.**

3. **Students must be assured that their decision to listen to or participate in any form of protected speech will not have negative effects on classroom grades.**
4. **While Arizona law allows the Board of Regents to delegate some of its responsibilities to the respective state university presidents, the Board must remain responsible to take care that each of the public universities are faithfully executing and enforcing their duties.**

The motion carried with a roll call vote of 6-0-4 (Attachment 1).

Representatives Carter, Crews, Smith, Senators Wadsack and Kern explained their vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Dickey
Brigid Fitzgerald
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)