

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Minutes of the Meeting
November 27, 2023
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=2023111010>

Members Present:

Senator Anthony Kern, Co-Chair
Senator Sonny Borrelli
Senator Justine Wadsack

Representative Quang H. Nguyen, Co-Chair
Representative Michael Carbone
Representative Austin Smith

Members Absent:

Senator Sally Ann Gonzales
Senator Anna Hernandez

Representative Lorena Austin
Representative Analise Ortiz

Staff:

Zack Dean, Senate Research Analyst
Justin Larson, House Legal Counsel & Research Analyst

Co-Chair Kern called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and attendance was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Kern stated that if there are no corrections, without objection, the Committee minutes of July 18, 2023 are approved as distributed.

OPENING REMARKS

Co-Chair Kern offered opening remarks.

TESTIMONY BY:

Tom Lewis

Tom Lewis, CEO, T.W. Lewis Company, shared his experience with the Arizona State University Barrett Honors College and answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Mr. Lewis answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Bret Johnson – Arizona State University

Bret Johnson, Partner, Snell & Wilmer on behalf of Arizona State University (ASU), explained his firm's role in assisting in the review the Arizona State University Barrett Honors College conducted and answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Mr. Johnson answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered additional comments.

Representative Carbone read an email for the record.

Mr. Johnson answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

RECESS

At 11:53 a.m. Co-Chair Kern recessed the meeting to the sound of the gavel.

RECONVENE

At 12:04 p.m. Co-Chair Kern called the meeting to order.

Linda Blake

Linda Blake, former events and operations manager for Arizona State University (ASU) Gammage Auditorium and Desert Financial Arena, gave her testimony about her dismissal and answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Jacob Bennett, Israeli-American Coalition for Action, offered comments on freedom of expression at Arizona's public universities and answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

Zach Lejka, representing self, gave his overview on freedom of expression at the Arizona State University campus and answered questions posed by the Committee.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Committee offered closing remarks.

Attached are forms noting the individuals who submitted a Speaker slip on the agenda items (Attachment A).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brisa Roman
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>)