

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Item Name: **Arizona Innovation Alliance**

 Action Item

Requested Action: The presidents will discuss the establishment of the Arizona Innovation Alliance.

Background/History of Previous Board Action

The Arizona Innovation Alliance (AIA) will be a partnership among the three Arizona public universities that will seek to enhance the performance of higher education in Arizona in the arenas of student success, technology solutions, general cost effectiveness, and best practices for resource allocation through sharing of innovative practices and cooperative development and deployment of support structures.

The AIA will be modeled on the University Innovation Alliance, a coalition of 11 universities including ASU. President Crow will initially lead the effort and each university will commit resources including university liaisons and fellows to implement the work at the university level.

Discussion

Initial AIA work will focus on three areas.

1. Improving overall student success (retention, graduation, academic performance) with particular attention on traditionally under-served populations

Specific goals for student success:

- Improve first year retention, four-year graduation, and six-year graduation rates in line with ABOR-established metrics.
- Increase the number of Pell-eligible students enrolled and graduating.
- Enroll entering resident undergraduate cohorts (freshman and transfer) which reflect the income and ethnic diversity of the overall population of high school graduates in Arizona.

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2. Deploying educational practices and programs which combine high standards of student outcomes with cost effective teaching and student support.

Specific goals for cost effectiveness:

- Develop a mix of program design and delivery methods (face-to-face, online, hybrid, technology-enhanced, etc.) that best meet the needs of each institution's goals.
- Design and deploy technology-based solutions and innovative structures in all aspects of the education, student support, and administrative services.
- Create innovative partnerships among the three universities, with other universities, and with the private sector where greater effectiveness or cost advantages can be gained.

3. Optimizing resource allocation between the proportion of student tuition and state appropriations available for the delivery of educational programs and the funding needed to assure accessibility and affordability.

Specific goals for resource allocation:

- Through innovations in program design and service delivery, limit the resource requirement from resident undergraduate tuition rate while achieving the student success goals.
- Collaborate on innovative approaches to financial aid that support access, educational goals, and optimal use of resources.