



Vice President of External Affairs August Report

Legislative Update

- **State Budget**

- Despite the fact that the state will likely be pulling in more revenue than had been projected, none of that is expected to go to higher education. In addition, some are speculating that we will see additional cuts next year.

- <http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/state/higher-education-cuts-likely-as-az-health-care-costs-rise>

- **Textbook Legislation**

- Along with other representatives from the Arizona Students' Association, I have met with Rep. Forese twice to discuss possible textbook legislation. Possibilities include incentivizing (or requiring) professors to create open-source textbooks.

- **Stafford Loans**

- In-school interest subsidies on Stafford Loans were done away with in the debt ceiling agreement.

- **Javits Fellowship**

- The Jacob J. Javits fellowship program, the only Federal funding for Arts and Humanities students, is being recommended for consolidation with the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) program. We will be looking for ways to encourage the continued funding of the Javits Fellowships.

Arizona Board of Regents

- **Performance-based Funding**

- ABOR is presenting a performance-based funding model to the State Legislature. This model gives each of the Universities a base operating amount and any funds above that will be distributed according to three factors: graduation rates, completed credit hours, and research. This will replace the current enrollment-based model. However, it does guarantee any particular amount of funding to the Universities.

- **Tuition and Fees**

- Chair Duval has announced that he would like to have no tuition increase this academic year. The details of this plan (such as whether it includes differential tuition, program fees, etc.) have not been thrashed out. This will likely only be a reality if there are no further cuts from the State.
- Our goal for the year is to have a graduate student from at least one of the Universities address the Regents at each meeting to continually remind them of the graduate students concerns regarding access and affordability.

External Affairs Directive

- I am working on an External Affairs Directive that I plan on putting forward to the External Affairs committee and then the Assembly for approval. This document will outline our positions on key issues that we will work on this year: access and affordability, health insurance, academic freedom, voter access, student support initiatives, campus safety, and outreach.

Respectfully,

Rhian Stotts
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Graduate and Professional Student Association
Arizona State University