



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 5, 2022

Dear Lumberjacks,

We write together as President of NAU, Executive Vice President and University Provost, and President of the Faculty Senate to recognize the joint efforts of our faculty and the university administration over the last year to advance critical and foundational work throughout our university community. Ultimately, the work of our faculty—the exceptional teacher-scholars of NAU—is the bedrock of instruction and scholarship that forms a university community, so our collaboration and partnership is essential for a healthy and vibrant university.

First and foremost, an early priority of the 17th presidency has been to work together to revise and approve the faculty constitution. On Monday, that work culminated in the formal approval and adoption of the new **Constitution of the Faculty**. This achievement reflects our commitment to constructive and collaborative shared governance that provides a foundation for future efforts. With the constitution in place, we will now turn our attention to updating the Faculty Senate Bylaws in Fall 2023.

Also on Monday, the Faculty Senate endorsed the adoption of a **Freedom of Expression Statement**, further committing the university to the urgent work of nurturing an environment of free and open inquiry in all manners and reaffirming the foundational values of free expression and the free exchange of ideas at NAU. Again, this work represents consistent collaboration, trust, and mutual support as we have reached this stage together.

Finally, as we look back on this most memorable year—the first for each of us in our current roles here at NAU—there is much to celebrate. The teaching track has been approved and will be implemented next academic year, and we are endeavoring both to immediately recognize the excellent work of our faculty and staff through compensation efforts and also establish a clear mechanism to prioritize future investments in our people. Also, we have launched new collaborative and deliberative bodies to ensure that the diverse voices of our university community are reflected throughout important processes, and we have undertaken an ambitious agenda of faculty searches to ensure that NAU has a highly-qualified, mission-driven, and diverse community of teacher-scholars to collaborate and advance our mission.

And this is just the beginning. As we move into Academic Year 2022-23, we will build on the momentum gained this past year and accelerate our efforts to deliver on the vision of **NAU 2025 – Elevating Excellence**, together.

Our thanks for your partnership and for your dedication to our students, who will celebrate the culmination of their efforts at our commencement ceremonies in the Skydome this weekend.

We hope to see you at commencement and the faculty receptions prior to each ceremony so that we can cheer for our graduates, recognize the pivotal role you have played in helping them realize their full potential, and toast to an exceptional academic year!

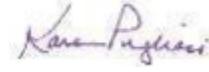
Sincerely,



José Luis Cruz Rivera
NAU President



Kate Ellis
Faculty Senate President



Karen Pugliesi
Interim EVP & University
Provost



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