

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Item Name: Report on Student Enrollment and Graduation**

Action Item       Discussion Item       Information Item

**Issue:** The Board is asked to review the most recent information on enrollment and graduation trends.

**Background**

- The Board is provided with a summary of students entering the university system immediately following high school graduation, trends in the universities for both headcount and FTE enrollment, and the success of students in achieving their degrees.

**Statutory/Policy Requirements**

- Arizona Revised Statutes §15-1822, §15-1626 and §15-1661.

**Strategic Implications**

- The Board's Strategic Plan contains goals for both total enrollment and enrollment at the undergraduate level. Total headcount enrollment is about 1,900 short of the projection and undergraduate is about 1,400 below. This is the first time since 2003-04 that enrollment has fallen below forecasted levels.
- The number of bachelor's degrees awarded in 2008-09 is ahead of the strategic plan projection by over 1,500.

**Key Findings - N/A**

**Direct Entry Freshmen**

- The Arizona University System recorded an increase of 882 (7%) in the number of Arizona high school graduates who enrolled in the Fall semester immediately following their senior year. That group totaled 12,570 in Fall 2008.
- The academic preparation of this class was lower than the previous year. Approximately 72% were admitted without academic deficiencies as compared to 79% in the previous year. But their first term GPAs were higher, 2.9 compared to 2.8 from last year's report.

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### Enrollment

- Total enrollment and undergraduate enrollment are both at record levels.
- Between Fall 2008 and Fall 2009, headcount enrollment in the Arizona University system rose 2.1 percent to 130,151:
  - Undergraduate enrollment is up 3.0 percent to 102,706.
  - However, graduate enrollment is down by 1.2 percent to 27,445.
- All three universities reported increases in enrollment:
  - ASU: + 1.5%
  - NAU: + 4.5 %
  - UA: + 1.9%
- FTE enrollment growth from 2008 to 2009 was even greater than the increase in headcount, rising 4.8 percent for both undergraduate and graduate students.
  - ASU : +4.7%
  - NAU: +7.4%
  - UA: +3.8%
- Headcount and FTE enrollment in the last five years have grown 11.2 percent and 15.5 percent respectively.
- In January 2009, the Board temporarily modified ABOR Policy 2-103A, raising the limit from 30 percent to 40 percent for 2 years. Non-resident undergraduate students comprise 24.3 percent of the Arizona University System student body.
  - ASU: 21.4%
  - NAU: 22.8%
  - UA: 30.3%

### Graduation

- Compared to ten years ago, the universities have increased the number of bachelor degrees awarded by 4,994 (33.0 percent) and the number of graduate degrees by 1,883 (28.2 percent).
- In 2008-09, the Arizona University System awarded 20,106 bachelor's degrees.
  - ASU: 11,229 (55.8%)
  - UA: 5,915 (29.4%)
  - NAU: 2,963 (14.8%)
- In 2008-09 the Arizona University System awarded 8,562 graduate degrees.
  - ASU: 4,381 (51.2%)
  - UA: 2,327 (27.1%)

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- NAU: 1,854 (21.7%)

### **Committee Review and Recommendation**

- Reports were reviewed by the Academic Affairs Committee on November 5, 2009 and are forwarded to the Board for its information.

### **Recommendation to the Board**

- The Student Enrollment and Graduation report is presented for the Board's information and review.