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October 21, 2005

Mr. Richard Stavneak
Director
Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1716 West Adams
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: ABOR Response to September 30, 2005, JLBC Question Relating to the Cost of Curriculum Development for The University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix Program

Dear Mr. Stavneak:

On behalf of the Arizona Board of Regents, I am pleased to submit our response to your September 30, 2005, question relating to the cost of curriculum development for The University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix Program. This response has been compiled with input from The University of Arizona and Arizona State University.

Please be advised that, as requested, we will submit by February 15, 2006, our responses to the other four questions included in your letter. In addition and as required by SB 1517 (Laws 2005, Chapter 330), we will submit to the JLBC by December 31, 2005, a progress report on the College of Medicine-Phoenix Program, responding to the four questions presented in the statute.

We trust that this response will be helpful to the Committee. Please contact me if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Joel Sideman
Executive Director

Mr. Richard Stavneak
October 21, 2005
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c: Governor Janet Napolitano
Members, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Members, Joint Committee on Capital Review
Members, Arizona Board of Regents
President Peter Likins, The University of Arizona
President Michael Crow, Arizona State University

**ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS
RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2005, JLBC REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION CONCERNING CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT RELATING TO
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE-PHOENIX PROGRAM**

To quote the September 30, 2005, letter from JLBC Executive Director Stavneak to Arizona Board of Regents President Christina Palacios:

“Senator Burns requested additional information concerning curriculum development. In your September 26 response, you stated that essentially all faculty time prior to fall 2008 would be devoted to curriculum development. (ABOR note: ABOR’s September 26 response to JLBC question number 3 stated that, “Prior to the matriculation of Phoenix Program students, essentially all faculty time would be devoted to this start-up.” The first class will enter in July 2007, not “fall 2008” as stated in your question.) You did not, however, directly answer the question of cost. We believe the cost of curriculum development is at least \$3.8 million if all your faculty in FY 2006 and FY 2007 are engaged in curriculum development prior to classes beginning in FY 2008. (Based on your September 1 response, FY 2006 and FY 2007 basic science faculty salaries will be \$1.9 million each year.) Please provide your perspective on the \$3.8 million cost estimate and, if you disagree, your own specific cost estimate. We would appreciate this answer by October 21.”

The cost of curriculum development for the Phoenix Track is but one component of the cost of developing The University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix Program. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to isolate the costs of curriculum development. It is important to note that we are not only designing a Phoenix Track of the medical school curriculum, we are at the same time designing a new medical school. This major undertaking encompasses designing a new way of teaching to provide a cutting-edge learning environment for our medical students, designing new student support systems, and laying the foundation for the life-long learning of Arizona’s future physicians.

As presented in Table 3 on page 14 of our September 1, 2005, ABOR Response to SB 1517, the estimated cost to hire basic science and MD faculty who will design the Phoenix Track of the curriculum is \$3.8 million. These same faculty members, simultaneously, will also develop other key systems for the Phoenix Program, including admissions, student affairs, promotion and tenure, and clinical affairs.

Additionally, new administrative and support staff will be hired to support the curriculum development work of the initial cadre of faculty, and to support the entire Phoenix Program, including implementation of the curriculum. We have identified in earlier submissions to the JLBC detailed estimates for administrative and support staff and for operational costs required during FY 2006 and FY 2007 to result in a fully operational College of Medicine-Phoenix Program in July 2007.