

From: Jeff Hunt [mailto:jrh37@dana.ucc.nau.edu]  
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2004 12:26 AM  
Subject: A Proposal for the AUS Redesign Project

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To: Ms. Mary Jo Waites  
Arizona Board of Regents  
2020 N Central Ave  
Phoenix, AZ 85004-4593

Dear Ms. Waites,

As a NAU alumni (Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Mathematics and Statistics, 1986) and presently a graduate student at NAU going for a Master of Science degree with a major in Applied Physics I am submitting a proposal for the Arizona University System (AUS) Redesign Project. My proposal is the following:

1) An endorsement of Chris Herstam's proposal for the creation of a Central Arizona University (CAU) and Southern Arizona University (SAU) that would exist with the present Northern Arizona University (NAU).

2) I also endorse the directional names for the proposed new universities; especially since there is already a Northern Arizona University. I believe all the viewpoints against directional names have more to do with false perceptions than with anything substantial. One must note that student enrollments are cyclical but will increase overtime since the state's population will keep increasing indefinitely. Thus, directional names in the long run of history will not impact student enrollments. Neither will professors' salaries (since the salaries will probably be determined in the proposed Arizona Regional Universities and not by the university name) or their ability to publish be impacted by a directional name. Many NAU professors publish by working for this university with a directional name.

The threat of all the ASU West professors leaving if their school becomes CAU is groundless since most would not be able to find tenure track work at other schools very easily. There have been many stories in the news media of academicians teaching at various schools unable to find tenure track work.

In fact, I see directional names being quite appropriate since they describe the region of Arizona that they will be in and that they will be apart of a tier called Arizona Regional Universities. Note, how a directional name fits with the word regional quite well. The terms NAU, CAU, and SAU would then seem to have a nice ring to it. Perhaps in forty to sixty years as the population of the state is much larger than it is now a Western Arizona University (WAU) could spring up in Lake Havasu City and an Eastern Arizona University (EAU) somewhere near Springerville or Show Low could be established. Thus, a nice completion to a regional university system with each university having a consistent name with similar initials. For the near future the initial proposals with a NAU, CAU, and SAU each having a chancellor in an Arizona Regional Universities that has a president is quite good.

Below are some amendments I suggest to Chris Herstam's original proposals which follow after each number that is a continuation of the above numbers.

3) The Carnegie classification of doctoral institutions is misleading. Instead of looking at the number of doctorates granted each year one should look at the number of departments granting doctorates. For example under the Carnegie scheme if a university grants ten doctorates in 3 disciplines or minimum twenty doctorates each year then the school is classified as a doctoral research intensive institution. This is how NAU is classified. This classification makes NAU sound like they have a lot of doctoral programs. In fact, NAU has only nine doctoral programs with some of these offered in the same area like education. In contrast, at the University of Arizona most departments offer doctoral programs. Based on this contrast NAU does not offer much in doctorates.

The analysis suggests that perhaps NAU should abolish most if not all of its doctoral programs. This result makes sense given these following facts:

- a) NAU is historically a school that emphasized undergraduate education,
- b) In other states, schools that had the name (whatever state) State University and University of (whatever state) were the schools that would be the main doctoral research universities,
- c) Since the University of Arizona (UA) and Arizona State University (ASU) offer plenty of doctoral programs, then a waste of resources would result if NAU by itself or along with the proposed CAU and SAU should duplicate or offer similar doctoral programs; especially since state funding to the universities is very tight.

4) Since NAU, CAU, and SAU would offer very few doctorates or none at all then these schools would be free to emphasize undergraduate education which I believe is the spirit behind Mr. Herstam's proposal. I do feel that emphasizing undergraduate education does not exclude these schools becoming Master's I or Master's II institutions of the Carnegie classification since master degree programs, in contrast to doctoral degree programs, would take very little resources away from the undergraduate curriculum.

5) By emphasizing undergraduate education NAU, CAU, and SAU could perhaps stay small at no more then 17,000 students. If these schools start to reach this number, then that would be the time to create a Eastern Arizona University (EAU) and a Western Arizona University (WAU).

6) This last amendment to Chris Herstam's is that in order for NAU, CAU, and SAU to succeed as at best Master's I or II regional universities and not have their funding and influence short changed by ASU and UA I endorse the idea of a separate board of regents for these regional universities.

This new board of regents could be called the Arizona Board of Trustees (ABOT). As a result NAU, CAU, and SAU would still each have a president and not a chancellor.

This is the end of my proposal. Below will be my signature and below that will be my fellow NAU alumni and graduate student (in the same program) signature whom is endorsing my proposal.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hunt  
Patrick Robbins