

## REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

FROM: President Robert Robbins <http://president.arizona.edu/>

DATE: December 5, 2022

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS and GOALS:

#### **Black Faculty Speaker Series**

- Last week, the [Black Faculty Speaker Series](#) was launched by the Office of Faculty Affairs. This series works to create a campus culture in which Black thought, experience, and creativity are visible and vital.
- This year's theme is Afrofuturism, and each visiting speaker provides a unique voice and perspective on Black futurity.
- The next event in the series will be held on January 25, featuring Dr. Ruha Benjamin, Professor of African American studies at Princeton University, and I encourage you all to attend.

#### **New HRA for Gender-Affirming Care**

- The University of Arizona is establishing a [Health Reimbursement Arrangement](#) to assist University employees with out-of-pocket expenses related to gender-affirming surgery and fertility treatments that are excluded by the state health plans.
- This is an employer-funded health benefit used to reimburse employees, tax-free. There is a \$10,000 maximum for gender-affirming surgery and a \$2,500 maximum for fertility treatments.
- This new benefit will be effective on Jan.1 2023 and may be claimed for services provided to employees or dependents.

#### **Old Chemistry Building to Open Next Semester**

- The Old Chemistry Building, which has been under construction since May 2021, will be open to faculty, staff, and students at the start of the Spring 2023 semester.
- This historic building has been renovated and expanded, with nine new classrooms complete with state-of-the-art technology.
- The new layouts and technology will allow us to better serve the learning needs of our students and the research goals of our faculty. The emphasis on collaborative learning spaces helps to further our goals of reaching every student where they are and engaging the strength of our community to support every individual.
- The Commons, a brand-new addition that is joined to the original building, is fully accessible and hosts the majority of the new collaborative learning spaces. I encourage you to explore this space in the new year.