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July 20, 2023

Dr. Michael Crow  
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Dr. Crow:

As you are aware, I am co-chair of the Joint Legislative Ad Hoc Committee on Freedom of Expression at Arizona's Public Universities, which met on July 18, 2023, to discuss the events surrounding the former T.W. Lewis Center's February 8th program titled "Health, Wealth & Happiness."<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the hearing was to gather information surrounding the February 8th event, the subsequent closing of the Lewis Center, and the termination of its executive director, Ann Atkinson. To that end, the committee heard testimony from members of ASU's administration, as well as Ann Atkinson. Ms. Atkinson's testimony identified many concerns about how the university's administration and its faculty responded to these events, including possible failure to adhere to university policies.

At the end of the hearing, I expressed my dissatisfaction with the responses (and lack of responses) ASU has given in regard to this matter. I am formally requesting that ASU provide a written report of an investigation into several of the matters raised during the hearing. The investigation should

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<sup>1</sup> Video recording of the entire hearing can be found at the following link:

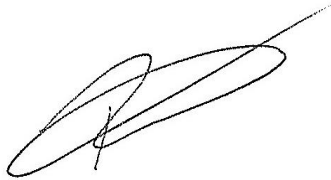
<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2023071003>

at a minimum address testimony from the hearing regarding the February 8th event and its consequences, including, but not limited to, the testimony from Ann Atkinson that:

- One or more Barrett faculty members ran a national condemnation campaign;
- One or more Barrett faculty members took the condemnation campaign into classrooms;
- One or more Barrett faculty members viciously and publicly attacked one or more Lewis Center donors;
- One or more Barrett administrators, faculty or staff knew about or participated in removing advertisements for the event, censoring speech, or directing speaker content; and
- ASU leadership defended the Barrett deans' censorship of speech and the Barrett faculty's condemnation campaign.

The report should address the events and testimony, as well as any actions ASU plans to take in response to its findings. I request that this written report be provided to me by September 18, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone (602-926-3497) or email (akern@azleg.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anthony Kern', written in a cursive style.

Senator Anthony Kern  
Arizona Legislative District 27