



AZ LEGISLATURE

The Arizona State Legislature is not currently in session. Among a number of bills passed in the last legislative session that are affecting graduate and professional education, SB 1517 is probably the most interesting bill passed into law and signed by the Governor.

SB 1517

The bill makes a number of changes and provisions in higher education. Notably, as summarized by ABOR, "By December 31, 2005, ABOR must submit a report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) and the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting (OSP) on the advisability and options for implementing a tuition structure that limits tuition increases for continuing students to no more than inflation." In summary, a number of state legislators have expressed some frustration with ABOR's dramatic tuition increases over the past few years and have required ABOR to present research on the possibility of limiting tuition increases for continuing students.

I am serving as one of three student representatives on a committee formed by ABOR to prepare and present this research. I will continue to keep the graduate and professional student community informed of the implications of this legislation. The actual text does not apply to class, college, or other fees. GPSA is working to present the burden of tuition increases and fees imposed on graduate and professional students to ABOR and the AZ State Legislature.