EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Proposal to Disestablish Arizona International College, The University of Arizona

ISSUE:
The University of Arizona requests authorization to disestablish Arizona International College (AIC).

BACKGROUND:
- **AIC History**
  
  Established as part of a multi-faceted ABOR plan to accommodate future enrollment growth, AIC matriculated its first students in the fall of 1996 at the UA Science and Technology Park. From its inception, AIC sought to provide a distinctive, practical undergraduate liberal arts education. Among its most notable features are a close relationship between students and faculty members based upon a common interdisciplinary core curriculum and an individually designed learning plan, and the requirement of two supervised internships in community service learning and career learning.

  In October 1997, ABOR approved the move of AIC to the UA main campus on an interim basis. The lack of public transportation and residence halls made it difficult to recruit new students to its site at the Science and Technology Park, and the Legislature’s FY 1998 budget appropriation did not meet the needs for campus development. The move was intended to support AIC’s development toward the goal of becoming an independent four-year institution of higher education. It was anticipated that this incubation period would last for three to five years.

- **Rationale for Disestablishment**
  
  In the course of efforts to reduce expenditures both for immediate satisfaction of budget rescission requirements and for long-term financial stabilization, President Likins initiated the reevaluation of AIC that he had indicated would occur three to five years following its co-location on the UA main campus. This review, which under normal circumstances would likely have begun next spring, was accelerated by the urgency of the current financial situation.

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The following facts were considered. The AIC budget for the current academic year is $2,259,200. Enrollment at AIC this fall totals 417 (with 285 FTE), up from 313 last year (220 FTE), with 137 new freshmen (down from 140 last year). Of last year’s new freshmen, 25 percent had transferred to another UA program of study, and another 25 percent dropped out before becoming sophomores. This fall almost 91 percent of AIC students were enrolled full time in the University but only 36.7 percent were enrolled full time (greater than or equal to 12 credits) in AIC courses, with the majority of AIC students relying substantially on University courses outside of their college. These factors did not auger well for the future of AIC as a freestanding college scheduled to relocate to the UA North Campus being planned jointly with Pima Community College.

Finally, scanning the institutional environment now compared to five years ago, undergraduate programs on the main campus have become more learner-centered, and there are more opportunities for international studies and service learning. In other words, some of the features that distinguished the AIC educational experience are no longer uniquely present at AIC.

With all of these factors at play, President Likins concluded that the institution’s interests, including its long-term financial health and its capacity to meet learners’ needs, would be best served by recommending to ABOR the disestablishment of AIC.

- **Plan for Disestablishment**

A team, co-chaired by Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Committee Chair Jerry Hogle and University College Associate Dean Lynne Trousdale, has been established to develop a detailed transitional plan for the students, faculty, and staff of AIC.

The detailed plan will be built upon the following fundamental elements:

- Students now enrolled in AIC will be afforded the opportunity to complete a baccalaureate degree at the UA. They will generally have the option of completing their current curriculum or transferring into another UA curriculum. Each student will be accommodated individually.

- All 20 members of the AIC faculty are non-tenured and engaged by term contracts, some ending in 2002 and some extending as far ahead as 2006. All existing faculty employment contracts will be honored, with appropriate alternative administrative arrangements made on an individual basis.
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- UA classified staff employment procedures will be adhered to fully. Under the University's **Classified Staff Human Resources Policy Manual**, non-probationary regular staff employees who are laid off shall be provided by Human Resources with assistance in exploring other employment opportunities at the University for which they appear qualified. In addition, laid-off employees placed upon a Candidate Referral List by Human Resources will be awarded priority status and must be interviewed by the hiring department when certain conditions are met.

RECOMMENDATION/CONCLUSION:

The Board is requested to approve the disestablishment of Arizona International College and its degree programs: the Bachelor of Arts in Fine and Performing Arts, Humanities, Language and Culture; Liberal Studies; Natural Sciences and Mathematics; and Social Sciences. The College and its academic programs will be phased out according to the detailed plan being developed by the AIC Transition Team.