

SENATOR T.J. SHOPE

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August 30, 2023

Fred DuVal
Chairman
Arizona Board of Regents
2700 N. Central Avenue, Suite 400
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Chairman DuVal:

As a proud Arizona State alum and lifelong Sun Devil fan, I have been troubled for some time by the administration of ASU's athletic department, led by Ray Anderson, ASU's Vice President for University Athletics and Athletics Director. Whether looking at the questionable hiring of Mr. Anderson's friend and former client Herm Edwards as the head football coach, to the multimillion-dollar buyout of Mr. Edwards, to the now self-imposed bowl ban, the raft of improprieties and frankly embarrassing issues that have occurred during Mr. Anderson's tenure lead one to wonder just what is next and whether *anyone* is holding *anyone* accountable.

You may wonder why this letter is addressed to you and the Board of Regents and not to ASU President Michael Crow. Arizona law states, "The [Board of Regents] shall have and exercise the powers necessary for the effective governance and administration of the institutions under its control." (A.R.S. 15-1626(A)(1)). The sad reality is that I have lost faith that action will be taken at the university level, given the near decade of inaction during Mr. Anderson's tenure, which is why I look to you.

I could go on for pages and pages about the questionable and less-than-flattering incidents related to Mr. Anderson's tenure, but there are plenty of websites already devoted to laying out that track record. Instead, I would like answers as to what the Board has done or plans to do, to investigate what happened, why it happened, should it have happened, and to possibly hold someone accountable for the following:

- Why did ASU pay Herm Edwards \$4.4 million in a buy-out agreement instead of firing him *for cause* for the recruiting violations that occurred while he was head coach?
- If the right decision was to allow for the buy-out agreement in the fall of 2022, what has ASU learned in the time since then that led to the decision to *now* self-impose a bowl ban?

- Did ASU intentionally announce the bowl ban after the April 2023 undergraduate transfer portal deadline in an effort to prevent players from leaving the university after receiving this information?

Answers are needed to these and many other questions. Frankly, the public needs to see action taken. Leadership should immediately be displayed by you and the rest of the Board in taking that action. Without it, it is clear that nothing will be done. Reputational harm is being done to ASU, both at home and nationally. These series of events have become insults to the hard-working student-athletes who are desperate to prove themselves this season, as well as the new coaching staff who are trying to resurrect the program, and ultimately, the Arizonans who wish to take pride in their local universities.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T.J. Shope".

T.J. Shope
Senate President Pro Tempore

Cc: Executive Director John Arnold