



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA

LIVE CHAT WITH LIESL

A biweekly chat with Provost Liesl Folks



AGENDA

Housekeeping and Introduction

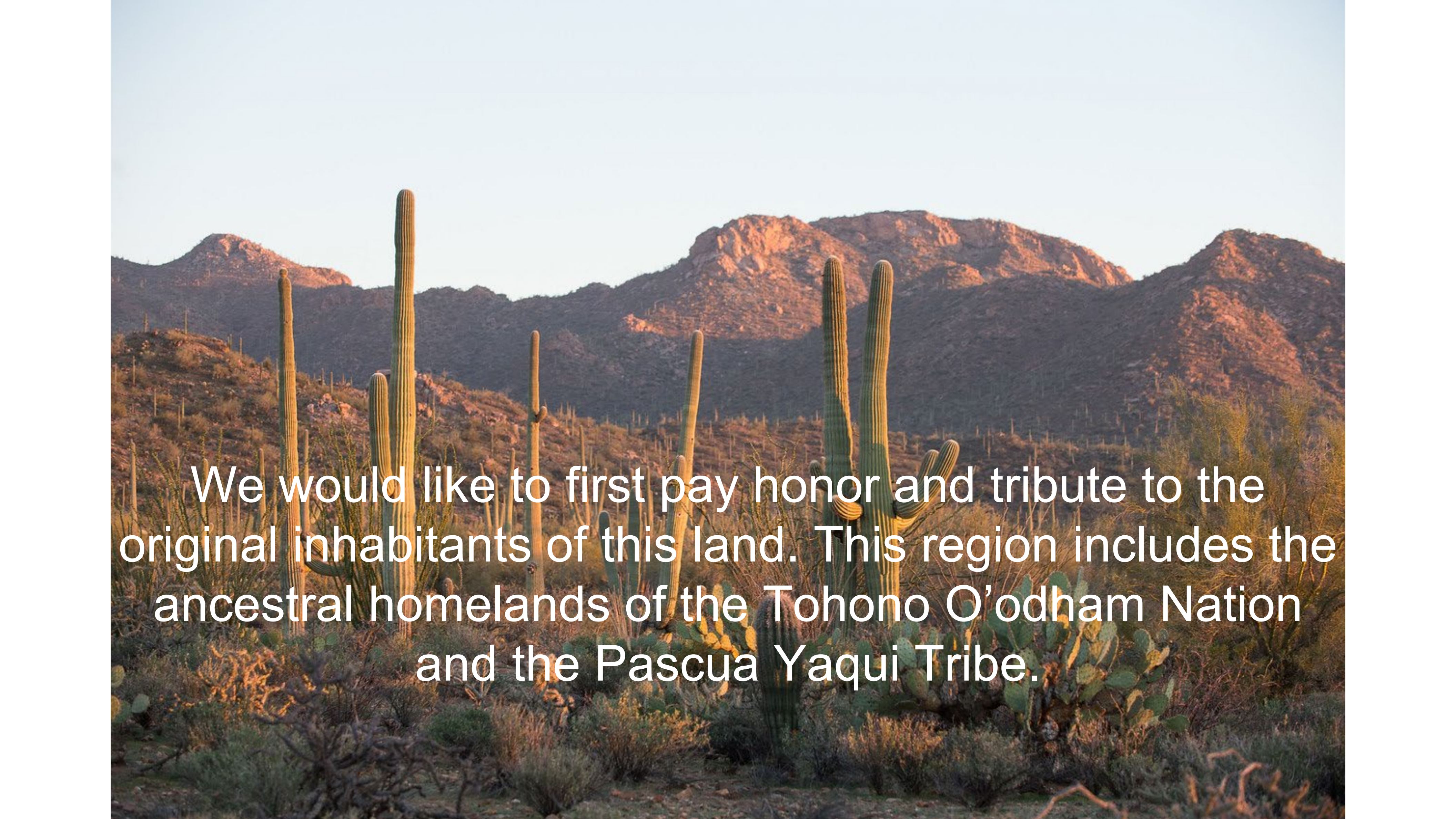
5 minutes

Provost Folks & Panelists

15 minutes

Questions from live audience & Q&A

40 minutes



We would like to first pay honor and tribute to the original inhabitants of this land. This region includes the ancestral homelands of the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

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Topic: Supporting Our Graduate Students

Panelists:

- Andrew Carnie, Dean of the Graduate College
- Maggie Pitts, Associate Dean of the Graduate College
- Dorian Voorhees, Associate Dean of the Graduate College
- Meg Lota Brown, Faculty Director of the Graduate Center
- Frans Tax, Faculty Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Graduate College

UHAP 7.01.01 Statement on Professional Conduct

As members of the University of Arizona community, we are committed to sustaining an academic community that advances learning and innovation. We recognize our responsibilities and obligations as representatives of the University, and we hold ourselves and each other accountable for the following:

We are inclusive and respectful

We are committed to freedom of expression, academic freedom, and collaborative inquiry. We support creativity and innovation by valuing all voices and engaging in respectful discourse. While we may not always agree with the ideas and opinions of others, we honor their right to express them.

We provide a safe environment for those who work, learn, and visit with us

We do not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or behavior that intimidates, threatens, demeans, or harms another person. We work to resolve differences constructively, look out for each other and promptly address or report issues of concern. We recognize our individual obligations to make the University a safe and inclusive environment by abiding by the University's Workplace Violence policy and Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy.

7.01.02 Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech

Our primary responsibility to our academic discipline and to our society is to seek and state the truth based on available evidence. Guided by recognition of the value of evidence-based inquiry to our community and an informed citizenry, we recognize our shared obligation to exercise critical judgment and self-discipline in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. To this end, we devote our energies to developing and improving critical thinking and scholarly rigor through teaching, research, and engagement with the University's broader constituencies.

<https://policy.arizona.edu/faculty-affairs-and-academics/professional-conduct>

Meeting Agreement

This meeting is an official meeting of the University of Arizona. Accordingly;

- As with any official meeting, courtesy and professionalism are paramount. As we move through our discussion today, we ask that each of you keep the focus on the issue, and not the person. We can disagree, we can debate, but personal attacks do nothing to advance our shared agenda.
- We will engage only in respectful discourse.
- The meeting will be recorded, and the chat feed will form part of the official record of this meeting.
- Anyone who engages in ad hominem attacks, or uses foul language, or limits the voices of others will receive one warning and if the behavior continues will be removed from the meeting.

Housekeeping

- The webinar is recorded. The recording, the chat and the presentation materials will be available after the webinar on <https://provost.arizona.edu/content/provost-forum>.
- **To ask questions live** during the webinar, please **submit your question** on the Q&A window and **raise your hand** using the hand icon located on the bottom of Zoom page. When called upon, you will be unmuted for others to hear. Please expect a slight lag. Due to Zoom limitations, we are not able to show your video image without losing your access to the Q&A and chat history.
- The Chat function allows you to send chat messages.

Challenges

Challenges facing graduate (and in particular doctoral) education *nationally*:

- Poor mental health and wellness support.
- Low retention and completion rates; high time to degree
- Heavy GA workload & poor workplace conditions
- Low GA pay & significant post graduation indebtedness
- Stipend/pay insecurity from semester to semester.
- An emphasis on graduate students as a source of labor rather than as student scholars
- Poor mentoring and career support
- Changing job landscape, including more employment opportunities outside of academia
- Lack of diversity (UArizona grad education is currently 26% BIPOC)

<https://provost.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/Committee%20on%20Graduate%20Education%20Report.pdf>

Workshops and Programs for Graduate Students

Communication

- Dissertation/Thesis writing
- Grant writing and fellowship applications
- Public speaking
- Interpersonal communication

Multiple Career Pathways

- Career counseling
- Translating skills to employers
- Networking

Mentoring

- Managing conflict
- Supporting advisors & grad students

Wellness

- Stress
- Combating Imposter syndrome
- Time management
- Financial literacy

Interdisciplinarity & Diversity

- Building interdisciplinary relationships
- Leadership and inclusion
- Writing across disciplines
- *List of programs and workshops will be circulated in chat*
- <https://gradcenter.arizona.edu>

Supporting Diversity

- Recruiting at diversity conferences, selected institutions to ensure a diverse graduate applicant pool
- IMSD and Sloan diversity programs with a strong commitment to student's self efficacy, STEM identity, career development (with the Grad Center), and tiered mentoring
- Troubleshoot problems that arise in graduate programs
- Promote holistic admissions and inclusive practices
- UROC-graduate school preparation
- Weekly support zoom groups for BIPOC students

<https://grad.arizona.edu/diversityprograms/>

Current and Future Projects

- In collaboration with Faculty affairs and RII: mentoring training for faculty — with an eye to increasing retention/completion.
- New anti-racism training for students, staff, and faculty.
- In collaboration with OIA, new TA training with better resources and an on-going support.
- Improvements to GradPath and GradApp to facilitate work of staff and faculty.
- Developing an Internship program for Ph.D. students looking for careers outside of academia.
- Development of new best practices in funding and supporting graduate students (see for example the program at Chicago: <https://provost.uchicago.edu/announcements/new-funding-and-programs-phd-students>).
- Building out more fellowship and scholarship funding opportunities for Graduate Students and Post Docs. [*Grad College currently disburses \$15,700,000 in Tuition Scholarships (GTS) and Fellowships (GCF) each year*]

<https://grad.arizona.edu/ofce/welcome>

<http://grad.arizona.edu>

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Thank You!



Next session information

<https://provost.arizona.edu/content/provost-forum>