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Update on University of Arizona Health Network/Banner Health Merger

Jan. 15, 2015

Dear Faculty,

*We wanted to give you a heads up on an announcement (below) that we are making to our employees and others later today concerning an upcoming vote by ABOR the week of Jan. 26 on the agreement that will merge UAHN into Banner. While we will sign the final agreement promptly should ABOR vote to approve it, the **closure date for the merger will be moved to Friday, Feb. 27, 2015.** It's been clear in recent meetings with faculty regarding the employment model that academic medicine is at the heart of the merger. The closure date will usher in the potential for our academic medical centers to rise to the top tiers nationally for teaching, clinical care and research. Of course, those who will lead us into this future of national leadership are our faculty members -- starting with you! In the meantime, this note can serve as adequate talking points for you should you receive questions from colleagues.*

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We are pleased to provide you with an update about the merger of University of Arizona Health Network into Banner Health. Banner Health will be sharing a similar communication with its employees and stakeholders.

Negotiations continue and are nearly completed. We anticipate signing definitive agreements by the end of January and have agreed to move the closure date for the proposed merger of UAHN into Banner and the conclusion of the Academic Affiliation Agreement to Feb. 27, 2015.

The level of detail to prepare documents for the closure of a 30-year Academic Agreement is significant. The new closure date also allows for an extended deadline for faculty physician benefits enrollment as well as extended deadlines for work product from transition teams.

We would like to acknowledge all the hard work done by the integration teams from UA, UAHN, and Banner Health who are helping to move an extremely complex undertaking forward through numerous questions and challenges.

The proposals under discussion will enable a bright future for medical education and innovation at the UA and top-quality patient care in Tucson and throughout Arizona.

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