

USHE Weekly Legislative Report
Seventh Week: March 11 - March 14, 2013
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This is the seventh and final weekly report for 2013 on the legislative session from the perspective of the Utah System of Higher Education, for distribution to Regents, Presidents, and Trustees. A final comprehensive report will be prepared for the Board of Regents meeting on March 29, 2013.

2013-2014 Budget. The recommendations reported last week held, with a few minor additions. In total, Higher Education is seeing new state funding representing an on-going increase of approximately \$41.5 million, or about 6%. This includes \$18 million for Mission Based funding (split evenly between Distinctive Mission initiatives and Equity), \$10 million (\$6.5 million in year one) for additional slots at University of Utah Medical School (see SB 42 below), and \$1.5 million for Dixie State University implementation status. Also approved was partial funding for 1% compensation increases (\$9.4 million). No funding was allocated for the 66% initiative, proposed at \$20 million in tax funds.

One-time money for higher education includes: \$1 million for growth in Regents' Scholarship, \$600,000 for Technology Intensive Concurrent Enrollment (TICE), \$1 million for a performance funding initiative envisioned by Higher Education Appropriations Chair Sen. Steve Urquhart, \$3 million for PhD. programs at Utah State University, \$2.5 million for Huntsman Cancer Institute, \$300,000 for the Utah Museum of Natural History, \$250,000 for the Walker Institute at Weber State University, \$300,000 for the computer crime lab at Dixie State University, \$500,000 for the USU Eastern Central Instruction Building, \$500,000 for the USU Brigham City Campus, \$500,000 for the Dixie State University East Elementary school purchase, \$50,000 for the Utah Women in Education Initiative, and \$25,000 for the SUU Summer Games.

Capital Budget. Funding for the Regents' top two capital development priorities were approved by the Legislature: \$54 million for a new classroom building at Utah Valley University, and \$3.5 million for design of a new science building at Weber State University. Also included is \$46 million in one-time funding to increase state expenditures on capital improvements (Higher Education institutions traditionally receive a large share of these funds due to the extent of our capital facilities).

Key Legislation of Interest to USHE Approved by the Legislature:

- **HB 28, Campus Safety Amendments*** by Rep. Don Ipson, would allow administrative officers at USHE institutions to dismiss individuals that trespass on the property of higher education institutions who disrupt the peace.
- **HB 61, Dixie State College – University Status*** by Rep. Don Ipson, a bill changing the name of Dixie State College of Utah to Dixie State University affirms the action taken Board of Regents at their last meeting on January 25.
- **HB 139, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Action Center** by Val Peterson, creates educational programs for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in public education. USHE has not taken a formal position on the bill, however certain provisions clearly support the Board's positions on academic rigor, preparedness and access.

- **HB 254, College Credit for Veterans*** by Rep. Paul Ray, requires USHE colleges and universities to award credit for certain military service training and experience after meeting with a higher education student advisor.
- **HB 340, Snow College Economic Development and Workforce Preparation Advisory Committee*** by Rep. Kay L. McIff, would modify the duties of Technical Education Advisory Committee to assess the economic development needs of central Utah and advise Snow College on how the college can improve the effectiveness of its efforts to assist business, industry, and local government to help expand economic activity.
- **SB 42, Medical School Admissions Funding*** by Sen. John Valentine, authorizes the University of Utah School of Medicine to increase the number of students admitted by 40 students for a total of 122 students annually; and restricts the 40 additional admissions to students who demonstrate a strong connection to Utah.
- **SB 51, Higher Education Tuition Waivers*** by Sen. Stephen Urquhart, removes the cap on the number of waivers allotted to institutions of higher education for nonresident students who meet certain academic and admission requirements; and extends alumni legacy nonresident scholarships at institutions of higher education to grandchildren of alumni.
- **SB 100, Higher Education Scholarship Amendments*** by Sen. Jerry Stevenson, makes modifications to the Regents' and New Century scholarship programs to streamline the application process, raise standards to improve completion, and addresses concerns raised by constituents.
- **SB 132, Utah Medical Education Council Amendments*** by Sen. Wayne Harper, this bill moves the functions of the Utah Medical Education Council into the Board of Regents as well as expands its scope to nursing professionals. The Council will still maintain its authority through its current board appointed by the Governor, to bridge the gap between public/private health care workforce and education interests.
- **SB 162, Concurrent Enrollment Amendments*** by Sen. Stephen Urquhart, clarifies and modifies several elements of legislation he sponsored, and enacted, last year that were administratively burdensome, based on feedback from USHE.
- **SB 169, Education Task Force** by Sen. Stuart Reid, creates a task force of 14 legislators to review and make recommendations on long-term policies regarding public and higher education. The focus of the task force includes: workforce alignment, integration between education entities, improvement of the state's economic prosperity, and standards to be competitive in the United States and the world. A final report of the committee would be required in December 2013.
- **SB 175, Assessment of College Readiness*** by Sen. Howard Stephenson, requires K-12 school to administer college readiness assessments which include a college admissions test that is most commonly submitted to local universities (e.g. ACT or SAT). USHE supports this bill as it streamlines the assessment of college readiness of high school students.
- **SB 258, Rename Utah State University – College of Eastern Utah*** by Sen. David Hinkins, modifies state statute to change the name of *Utah State University – College of Eastern Utah* to *Utah State University Eastern*. The Board approved this change in February.
- **SCR 5, Concurrent Resolution Endorsing the Utah Education Excellence Commission*** by Sen. Jerry Stevenson, expresses strong support for achieving the goal that 66% of Utah's adults will hold a postsecondary degree or certificate by the year 2020; expresses the Legislature's determination to work with the Governor and Utah's education stakeholders to achieve the 66% goal through increased innovation and investment.

* USHE has taken an official position in support; ** USHE has taken an official position in opposition.