

January 13, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents
FROM: David L Buhler
SUBJECT: Dixie State University – Peer Institutions List

Background

The Office of the Commissioner (OCHE) reviews and where necessary, recommends revisions to – *Peer Institution Lists* for each USHE institution.

Board of Regent policy R508 provides guidelines for the creation and approval of peer institution groups for each USHE institution. Formally approved peer lists are used for various financial and statistical comparisons (Tab M of the annual USHE Data Book provides one such example). With the evolving nature of institutions, it is important to review the lists on occasion in order to assure that peer group members remain representative of the nature and mission of the USHE institution to which they are compared.

Utilizing the guidelines outlined in R508, Dixie State University (DSU) and OCHE have spent the past several months exploring updates to the Dixie State University Peer Institution List. In undertaking this endeavor, the services of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) were employed. NCHEMS offers a Comparison Group Selection Service that is designed to aid in selecting groups of institutions with similar missions and demographic characteristics.

Issue

Peer set review generally takes place about once a decade, enabling some stability in peer set comparisons while also recognizing the need for currency and continuing comparability amongst the peer set members. Occasionally, the review interval occurs more quickly, when and as circumstances warrant. In the case of Dixie State University, the last review took place in 2010, and two significant circumstances warrant a review and new recommendations at this time.

When USHE peer sets were last updated, the DSU set included three Colorado institutions (Colorado State University-Pueblo, Fort Lewis College, & Mesa State University). Soon thereafter, the State of Colorado implemented an approach to funding higher education that resulted in Colorado financial data not being comparable to institutional data from any of the other 49 states. Accordingly, the Office of the Commissioner has not been able to include the three Colorado institutions in DSU's peer set whenever the comparison being made has been one of financial support. Importantly, OCHE has received a

recommendation from both the Colorado Commissioner's Office and NCHEMS that due to the lack of comparability, the Colorado institutions be replaced in DSU's peer set.

The second circumstance supporting review of DSU's peer set at this time is that Dixie State continues to rapidly evolve as an institution. Within the past half dozen years, DSU has moved from a College to University status, it has grown substantially in the number of academic program offerings, and organizationally it has increased in both size and complexity. For instance, the number of academic program offerings alone has increased by 75% (& 130% at the Baccalaureate level) since the 2010 DSU peer set was created. In recognition of that growth, DSU's peer list needs some adjusting as to its makeup, in order to provide better benchmarks for comparative purposes.

Commissioner's Recommendation

We recommend approval of the revised Peer Institution list for Dixie State University.

David L Buhler
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/GLS
Attachments

APPENDIX A

Dixie State University Peer Lists: 2010 (*Current*) & 2016 (*Proposed*)

2010 List	2016 List
Central Washington U Ellensburg, WA	Austin Peay State U Clarksville, TN
Clayton State U Morrow, GA	CUNY Medgar Evers C Brooklyn, NY
Colorado State U - Pueblo Pueblo, CO	Missouri Southern State U Joplin, MO
Fort Lewis C Durango, CO	Missouri Western State U St Joseph, MO
Humboldt State U Arcata, CA	Montana State U - Billings billings, MT
Macon State C Macon, GA	Pennsylvania C of Technology Williamsport, PA
Mesa State C Grand Junction, CO	SUNY C of Technology - Canton Canton, NY
Missouri Western State U St Joseph, MO	Sonoma State U Rohnert Park, CA
U of Arkansas - Fort Smith Fort Smith, AR	Southern Oregon U Ashland, OR
Farmingdale State C Farmingdale, NY	U of Arkansas - Fort Smith Fort Smith, AR
Dixie State U St George, UT	Dixie State U St George, UT

APPENDIX B - Dixie State University: New Academic Programs (*since 2010*)

BS/BA		Art
BS		Chemistry
BS		Computer Science
BS/BA		Criminal Justice
BS/BA		Dance
BS		Exercise Science
BS		Finance
BS/BA		History
BIS		Individualized Studies
BS/BA		Mathematics
BS/BA		Mathematics Education
BS		Physical Science Composite Teaching
BA		Spanish
BS/BA		Social Sciences Composite Teaching
BS		Medical Laboratory Science
BS/BA		Music Education
BS/BA		Theatre
AAS		General Technology
AAS		Operations Management
AAS		Medical Laboratory Science
Certificate		Computer Forensics
Certificate		eMarketing
Certificate		Meidal Productions
Certificate		Digital Forensics Basics

APPENDIX C - Dixie State University Proposed Peer Institution List

Institution	Location	Headcount Students	% Part-time Students	Full-time Faculty	SF Ratio	% Bachelors Programs	City Size	2010 Carnegie Classification
Austin Peay State U	Clarksville, Tennessee	10,399	31%	360	18	73%	City Mid-size	Master C&U
CUNY Medgar Rivers C	Brooklyn, New York	6,477	35%	178	25	54%	City Large	Baccalureate-Associate
MO Southern State U	Joplin, Missouri	5,616	26%	197	19	79%	City Small	Baccalureate-Diverse Fields
MO Western State U	St Joseph, Missouri	5,795	31%	194	17	88%	City Small	Baccalureate-Diverse Fields
Montana State U - Billings	Billings, Montana	4,969	32%	165	18	52%	city Mid-size	Master C&U
PA College of Technology	Williamsport, Pennsylvania	5,678	16%	290	17	35%	City Small	Baccalureate-Associate
SUNY C of Tech - Canton	Canton, New York	3,512	16%	131	19	37%	Town Remote	Baccalureate-Associate
Southern Oregon U	Ashland, Oregon	5,992	36%	209	18	84%	Suburb Mid-size	Master C&U
U of Arkansas - Ft Smith	Fort Smith, Arkansas	7,170	29%	238	18	52%	City Small	Baccalureate-Associate
Sonoma St University	Rohnert Park, California	9,120	12%	246	24	88%	Suburb Large	Master C&U
Dixie State University	St George, Utah	8,350	38%	177	23	57%	City Small	Baccalureate-Associate