

May 8, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Technology Initiative Advisory Board – Funding Allocations from the 2019 Legislative Session

Issue

This item requests approval to allocate \$5,000,000 of Utah's Engineering and Computer Technology Initiative funding that was appropriated by the 2019 Legislature. In accordance with state statute, institutional allocations of new Engineering and Computer Technology Initiative appropriations are recommended by the Technology Initiative Advisory Board (TIAB) and approved by the Board of Regents.

Background

The 2001 legislature approved SB61: *Enhancements to the State Systems of Public and Higher Education*. This legislation established an Engineering and Computer Technology Initiative within the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) to increase the number of students graduating from engineering, computer science, and related technology programs. During the last 18 years, the Engineering and Computer Technology Initiative has been successful in increasing the number of graduates in these areas within USHE. Key provisions of SB61 and a list of the TIAB members are included in the attachment.

The TIAB, appointed by the Governor, was established to recommend funding allocations to the Board of Regents. During the 2019 legislative session, \$5,000,000 of on-going funds were appropriated to the initiative for distribution to USHE institutions commencing with the 2019-2020 fiscal year (FY20).

The following table provides a summary of funding over the life of the initiative (FY02 through FY18):

Engineering and Computer Technology Initiative Funding History FY 02 – FY18			
Year	Funds Appropriated		
	Ongoing	One time	Loan Forgiveness*
2001-02	1,000,000	2,500,000	500,000
2002-03	2,000,000	1,000,000	0
2003-04	500,000	0	50,000

2004-05	500,000	500,000	0
2005-06	1,500,000	500,000	0
2006-07	500,000	700,000	0
2007-08	3,000,000	2,000,000	0
2008-09	0	250,000	0
2009-10	0	2,000,000	0
2010-11	0	0	0
2011-12	0	0	0
2012-13	2,500,000	0	0
2013-14	0	0	0
2014-15	0	0	0
2015-16	3,500,000	1,000,000	0
2016-17	0	0	0
2017-18	4,000,000	0	0
2019-20	5,000,000	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,000,000</b>	<b>10,450,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>

*\*In 2001, SB 61 established a loan forgiveness fund to assist students in obtaining degrees in engineering and computer science. In 2009, SB105 changed the loan forgiveness program to a scholarship program for the purpose of recruiting, retaining, and training engineering and computer science and related technology students. Scholarship funds were part of the \$2,500,000 appropriation during the 2012 legislative session.*

Since the initiative's inception, over 37,000 degrees targeted by the initiative have been awarded by institutions within USHE. According to the most recent data available, the following degree completions show growth at key points in time.

Degree Category	FY00- Prior to Initiative	FY16- Last Funding Appropriation (effective FY18)	FY18- Latest Year Graduation Data Available
Engineering	862	1626	1730
Computer Science	513	1312	1553
Total	1375	2938	3283

In making the current \$5,000,000 appropriation recommendation, the TIAB followed statutory language. As such, the TIAB gave consideration to requests to hire and retain faculty, purchase equipment, and fund new engineering and/or computer technology programs. Institutional contributions to additional graduates was also a factor. Requests from institutions exceeded the amount of available funds.

Given the considerations indicated above, the TIAB made a unanimous recommendation that funding from the 2019 Legislature be allocated and distributed to the institutions effective FY20 as follows:

Institution	Funds Requested from Institutions	TIAB Recommended Funding
University of Utah- College of Engineering	3,651,000	2,600,000
Utah State University	913,500	785,000
Weber State University	625,000	400,000
Southern Utah University	326,000	60,000
Snow College	143,600	30,000
Dixie State University	480,000	375,000
Utah Valley University	1,207,500	700,000
Salt Lake Community College	75,000	50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,421,600</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>

Policy Issues

The process to recommend funding allocations has been followed consistent with state statute.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Board of Regents approve the allocation of Engineering and Computer Technology Initiative funds appropriated by the 2019 Legislature as recommended by the Technology Initiative Advisory Board and that these funds be distributed to institutions effective with the 2019-2020 fiscal year with expectation that funds are expended and matched in accordance with Utah Code 53B-6-105 and 53B-6-105.9.

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David L. Buhler  
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/BKC  
Attachment

## Attachment

### Key provisions of SB61:

1. Established a goal to triple the number of graduates from USHE institutions in engineering, computer science, and related technology.
2. Directed the Regents to establish rules providing the criteria for those fields of study that qualify as "related technology."
3. Provided supplemental funds for equipment purchases to improve the quality of instructional programs in engineering, computer science, and related technologies.
4. Established a student scholarship to encourage enrollment in programs included in the initiative.
5. Provided funding for USHE institutions to hire and retain qualified faculty to teach in initiative programs.
6. Increased program capacity by funding new and renovated capital facilities, and funding for new engineering and computer technology programs.
7. Created a Technology Initiative Advisory Board to make recommendations to the Board of Regents in its administration of the initiative. Required that the advisory board be composed of individuals appointed by the Governor from business and industry who have expertise in the areas of engineering, computer science, and related technologies.

### Technology Initiative Advisory Board Members

- John Sutherland (Chair) Brigham Young University
- Susan Johnson (Co-Chair) Futura Industries (Retired)
- Reed Brown Mathnasium
- Vance Checketts Dsco.io
- Roland Christensen Applied Composite Technology
- Ed Ekstrom Chateau Grande
- Ed Esper Utah Capital Investment Corporation
- Mark Ripke Boeing
- Chuck Taylor SyberJet Aircraft
- J. Howard VanBoerum VanBoerum & Frank