



November 6, 2019

2020 Legislative Preview

Coordination and Communication

Institutional Events:

Commissioner will provide a short presentation on Board of Regents priorities at pre-session events. Regents are requested to attend the institution for which they serve on the Resource & Review Committees; all Regents are invited to any events.

WSU:	December 17 (Breakfast, Davis Campus)
UU/SLCC:	January 16 (11:30 AM, Monson Center)
DSU:	February 11 (Capitol)

*A special Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for **February 14**, 12:00-2:00 PM in House Building Room 30 for the Board to review pending legislative and budget proposals.

Pre-Session:

Commissioner will be meeting with leadership, higher education committee members and other key legislators. To the extent possible, the Commissioner's Office will notify and invite Board leadership and members of the Workforce, Advocacy and Access Committee to participate in pre-session one-on-one meetings with key legislators. We also encourage other interested Regents to participate; please notify Spencer Jenkins at sjenkins@ushe.edu.

In-session Legislative Updates:

- Weekly email update from Commissioner's Office
- Weekly conference call with Board Chair, Vice Chair and members of Workforce, Advocacy and Access Committee
- As soon as key committee dates are scheduled, Commissioner's Office will notify the Board.

Pending Legislation/Emerging Issues

(as of November 11, 2019; subject to change)

Higher Education Strategic Planning Commission

Potential legislation pertaining to the duties and makeup of governance of public higher education. The Commissioner's Office will continue advocating the Board's position based on the [feedback submitted to the Commission in October 2019](#).

Tax Reform

Proposed tax reform – turning into tax cuts - indicate higher education will be held harmless as the current proposal appears to broaden tax revenues to increase general fund (sales tax) while decreasing education fund (income tax) revenues. So far, the only notable impact will be a decrease in one-time funds in the education fund which has been the source for the strong legislative support for capital development in higher education in recent years.

State Scholarships Revisions

A Task Force established by the Regents in August 2019 is proposing the Board work with the state legislature to:

- Eliminate the New Century Scholarship and transfer to Utah Access Promise program.
- Split funding between the Regents' and Utah Access Promise Scholarships.
- Simplify the Regents' Scholarship to a merit award based on ACT and GPA.
- Align administration and awarding of the scholarships to institutions merit aid.
- Technical adjustments to the Utah Access Promise Scholarship to allow aid and institutional waivers to more succinctly "stack" to more efficiently support to students.
- Regularly assess the effectiveness of state aid programs in meeting stated purposes.

Utah College Access Advisors (UCAC)

The Board of Regents approved the use of internal funds for the initial expansion of UCAC for Fall 2019 to 34 high schools across the state. The Board is seeking \$3M dollars for FY 2021 to expand to an additional 50+ high schools, providing a College Access Advisor to a majority of high schools students in Utah. The program places a recent college graduate full-time in the high school to help connect students to the right postsecondary educational opportunity. This includes providing support as students:

1. Register for and complete college entrance exams
2. Submit college applications
3. Apply for financial aid and scholarships
4. Connect with their receiving institution to ensure a smooth transition

USHE Budget Priorities

For FY 2021, the Board of Regents adopted the following budget priorities:

1. Compensation and mandatory increases (commensurate with state employees)
2. \$34,850,000 for performance funding institutional priorities (including a \$29,500,000 legislative appropriation for performance funding)
3. \$3,000,000 for expansion of Utah College Access Advisors (UCAC)
4. \$1,754,200 Technical Education Funding Priorities

USHE Capital Priorities

By statute, this legislative session is the first in which the Board may only submit up to three projects to the state legislature for funding in FY 2020-21.

- Southern Utah University – Academic Classroom Building
- University of Utah – Applied Sciences Building
- Utah State University – Mehdi Heravi Global Teaching and Learning Center

Utah PRIME:

Legislation to jointly define a unified alignment for K-12 students transitioning from high school to college among the state's education entities (USHE, UTECH, USBE). The legislation formalizes the role of *Concurrent Enrollment, Career and Technical Education* and a student's *Plan for College and Career Readiness* in helping students best prepare for college success through a foundation for high school students that leverages state programs in support of college success aligned with high school graduation.

Student Safety

Given the heightened attention both locally and nationally, additional legislation relating to student safety and campus law enforcement is expected.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



UTAH
SYSTEM OF
HIGHER
EDUCATION

2020 LEGISLATURE: Coordination & Communication

- Pre-session 1:1's
- Institutional events
- February 14 Board of Regents mtg. at the Capitol
- In-session legislative updates

2020 LEGISLATURE: Pending and Emerging Issues

- Higher Education Strategic Planning Commission
- State Scholarship Revisions
- Utah College Access Advisors
- USHE Budget Priorities
- USHE Capital Priorities
- Utah PRIME
- Student Safety