



MEMORANDUM

TAB A

January 17, 2020

USHE – Affordability Task Force

The Governor recently recommended a freeze on tuition for USHE institutions until the Board defines “affordability.” While the Board has not adopted a formal, specific definition of affordability for the Utah System of Higher Education, the Board has long reviewed tuition increases and institutional finances for affordability. Since 2015, affordable participation has been one of three strategic priorities for the Board and in the January 2020 meeting the Board will hear the results of a study on tuition, state-aid, and affordability. In conjunction with the report and the work of the Finance and Facilities Committee, the Commissioner recommends the establishment of a Task Force to further explore and define a measure of affordability ahead of tuition proposals typically reviewed by the Board in March 2020.

Commissioner’s Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Finance and Facilities Committee appoint a Task Force comprised of Regents, institutional presidents, and USHE staff to define “affordability” for the USHE ahead of the March 2020 Board of Regents meeting.