



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

TAB J

October 30, 2020

## Student Affairs Committee Report

The Student Affairs Committee held its inaugural meeting on September 18, 2020. The committee reviewed a draft charter, the Commissioner's 100-Day Plan, and the statutory responsibilities of the Board of Higher Education. The committee will use equity-focused approaches in discussing any items. The committee will also focus on outcomes—beyond good ideas and information.

Committee Chair Lisa-Michele Church met with the chairs of USHE Chief Student Affairs Officers and Chief Diversity Officers, as well as Utah State Board of Education Deputy Superintendent Patty Norman, to discuss general issues related to the committee. Chair Church extended assignments to committee members in the following areas:

- Student Mental Health
  - Jera Bailey
  - Glen Rivera
- Campus Safety
  - Stacey Bettridge
  - Candyce Damron

The committee received an update from Nicole Batt, Executive Director of the Utah College Advising Corps. The committee unanimously approved a motion to prioritize funding to expand the initiative for the 2021-22 school year.

Laís Martinez, USHE Director of Diversity and Equity, presented a summary of the USHE issue brief in support of the Equity Resolution, adopted by the Board in August 2020. In support of the charge in this resolution, the committee will focus on ensuring state aid program revisions remove barriers for underserved populations; work on campus safety policies that combat racism and bias toward underserved populations; improve mental health policies that provide equitable services for all students; and expand college and career advising in high schools with a specific focus on reaching a more diverse group of students. Chair Church charged the committee to continually demand action in support of the Equity Resolution. This charge and strategic leadership led to the Executive Board Committee agreeing to center marginalized student, staff, and faculty voices and expertise by allocating time for equity, diversity, and inclusion presentations at each full Board meeting.

The committee reviewed a summary of state scholarship programs and recommendations from the 2019 State Scholarship Task Force. The recommendations included plans to sunset the Regents' and New Century scholarship programs, increase funds to the Utah Promise Scholarship, and establish a statewide merit program that removes barriers for underrepresented populations, including barriers such as the use of standardized tests, which are demonstrated to be weak predictors of college success. Staff will present a detailed work plan and legislative strategy at its November committee meeting.

Board members Bailey and Rivera discussed various System efforts in student mental health, including USHE's partnership with the JED Foundation (thanks to the generosity of the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation), SafeUT, and expanding support to technical colleges. Commissioner's office staff are meeting with JED to expand services and working to articulate how JED specifically responds to equity and diversity needs at USHE institutions. Commissioner's office staff will provide an update to committee members Bailey and Rivera before its November committee meeting.

Board member Damron reported on the status of the Board's Campus Safety Study in relation to [S.B. 80, Campus Safety Amendments](#), including feedback from student leaders. A baseline report is expected at the November committee meeting that outlines the level of services on campus for students, especially underrepresented populations.

Since the committee met in September, Chair Church met with USHE Chief Student Affairs Officers. They discussed major priorities including student pathways, transfer, and food scarcity among students.

### **Commissioner's Recommendation**

This is an information item only; no action is required.



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## Academic Education Committee Report

At its September 18, 2020 meeting, the Academic Education Committee received an overview and training on the committee's charter and its responsibility to oversee the academic work of Utah's degree-granting colleges and universities, including certificate and degree programs, their instructional quality, and their transferability and articulation; the production of research, scholarly work, and creative achievements; and faculty responsibilities, workloads, and tenure processes.

The committee approved two action items:

1. An out-of-mission program request from Southern Utah University for a Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology, which were forwarded to the full Board for consideration during the October 30, 2020 meeting.
2. The approval of minimum scores and maximum credit for AP/CLEP/DSST exams recommended by faculty major committees in order to standardize the credit for prior learning that students receive for those exams across Utah System of Higher Education institutions. Those recommendations were forwarded to the Board for approval through the general consent calendar during the October 30, 2020 meeting.

The committee also began discussing its priorities for the coming year. Chair Pat Jones explained the carry-over priorities from the previous year:

1. Standardizing credits for prior learning assessments; and
2. Streamlining transfer across the system.

The committee also began discussing its work over the coming year to address:

1. The Board's Equity Resolution.
2. The Board's definitions of the expected characteristics in the postsecondary portion of the state's Portrait of a Graduate.
3. The need to address the statewide attainment gap—in particular, the committee discussed the need in future meetings to explore gaps in academic success, the possible benefits of innovative academic pathways (such as improved transfer agreements, baccalaureate completion degrees, academic schedules better suited to the needs of adult students, increased opportunities for credit for prior learning, and competency-based pathways), and increasing equity in Concurrent Enrollment participation.

**Commissioner's Recommendation**

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## Technical Education Committee Report

The Technical Education Committee held its inaugural meeting on September 18, 2020. The committee received an overview of technical education and the value it provides to students and the communities served. The committee reviewed and approved a charter to oversee the technical education at Utah's technical colleges and degree-granting institutions that offer technical education. The committee will focus on outcomes with equity-focused approaches.

Prior to the meeting, the committee was asked to watch a 10-minute video entitled "Success in the New Economy." The video underscores the importance and value of technical education. In the meeting, Kim Ziebarth, Associate Commissioner for Technical Education, presented an overview of technical education in Utah. The presentation included a brief history, geographic service regions, institution and programmatic accreditations and approvals, programs and approvals, student enrollment, industry relations, credentials, tuition cost, performance indicators, completion, placement and graduation rates, educational pathways and articulation agreements, scholarships, and campus services.

Associate Commissioner for Workforce Development, Jessica Gilmore, Ed.D., presented on Pathways to Workforce Development, which included: program and course definitions, offerings, employment, and wages in Utah. Gilmore stated that the statistics presented today are related to the UTech system. She is working with Carrie Mayne, Chief Economist, to merge the data and will present it at a future meeting.

Vice Chair Maggelet presented a draft of the [Technical Education Committee Charter](#) that includes a statement of purpose, membership and administrative support, authority, responsibility, and meeting times. She suggested adding a breakdown of governance, programs, and workforce. The committee approved the charter with the recommended changes.

Laís Martinez, Director of Diversity and Equity, provided an overview of the [USHE issue brief in support of the equity resolution](#), adopted by the Board in August 2020. The presentation included a recommendation to advance equitable systemic change. Committee members discussed the need for clarification of the visible and invisible barriers that need to be addressed, as well as baseline data needed to measure the progress and success of this initiative. Carrie Mayne reported that data is being compiled for all of USHE institutions and will be reported in upcoming Board meetings.

The committee began discussing potential USHE strategic priorities that align with the state's vision defined in [S.B. 111, \*Higher Education Amendments\*](#), which cites quality, affordability, workforce alignment with high quality jobs and job growth, educational opportunity access, equity, completion, and the development of seamless pathways. The following potential initiatives were discussed:

1. Transition technical colleges from clock-hours to credit hours
2. Improve state adult education's connection with technical education and workforce development
3. Broaden the development and application of pathway agreements to reduce the duplication of course work, time, and cost to students

### **Commissioner's Recommendation**

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## Finance and Facilities Committee Report

At its September 18, 2020 meeting, the Finance and Facilities Committee reviewed the six projects that have been identified as priorities for FY21-22 for relevance given the novel coronavirus and institutional changes to instruction. The committee approved the projects in the following priority order to move forward to the full Board for final action:

1. BTech Health Sciences Building
1. SUU Academic Classroom Building
2. UU Applied Sciences Building
3. USU Mehdi Global Teaching and Learning Center
4. SLCC Herriman Campus
- DSU Land Bank

The committee discussed statutory responsibilities related to finance and facilities given to the Board by the legislature and discussed areas of interest in setting committee priorities for the coming year. As part of those priorities the Committee also discussed how an equity lens can inform committee priorities, and Laís Martinez presented a framework for equity work.

The committee discussed shared services in the Utah System of Higher Education and made it a top committee priority. Shared services is the sharing of back-office business functions across business units. The committee discussed how establishing shared services across the System will meet the statutory responsibility to improve system efficiency. The committee defined the next steps as gathering system-wide information on back-office functions and writing an RFP to hire a shared services consultant to develop a business case for the System.

The committee also discussed the work of the Student Fees Workgroup, which was convened to review and revise the current USHE policy on general student fees, discuss how to better define student fees and when institutions should administer them, and create a process to review all student fees in consideration of which fees should be rolled into tuition.

The committee also heard four informational reports that are available for review of the full Board:

1. Educationally Disadvantaged Intent Language
2. Annual Report on Foreign Gifts
3. Annual Report on Institutional Residences
4. Revenue Bond Results

**Commissioner's Recommendation**

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