



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

TAB E

January 14, 2021

## Strategic Plan Affordability Priority: Goals and Strategies

During its November 2020 meeting, the Finance and Facilities Committee affirmed support for the following definition of affordability for the Board's strategic plan:

*Cost of attendance should not be a barrier to accessing or completing a certificate or degree. Affordability is the ability of a Utah student to cover the cost of attendance at a USHE institution utilizing a combination of financial aid and other resources.*

The committee will now explore goals and strategies to support the affordability priority. Some suggestions are listed below.

### *What can the Board do?*

- Keep tuition & fees low
- Implement systemwide efficiencies
- Refocus existing, and grow new, financial aid resources
- Leverage statewide resources

### *Potential Goals*

- Develop an expanded standard of affordability by (date).
- Ensure institutional cost of attendance remains within the standard of affordability year over year.

### *Potential Strategies*

- Revise or repeal policies that inhibit unnecessary growth in tuition and fees.
- Develop standardized financial data and definitions, including cost of attendance.
- Identify and remove affordability barriers for Utah students.
- Provide equitable financial aid opportunities by prioritizing resources to need-based programs.
- Identify and implement shared services that will have the greatest impact on increasing institutional efficiency.

### **Commissioner's Recommendations**

This is a discussion item only; no action is needed.