



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB A

March 26, 2021

Academic Education Committee Report

During its meeting on February 19, 2021, meeting, the Academic Education Committee addressed one action item: recommendations from the Board Transfer Council, which council co-chairs Nina Barnes and Candyce Paige presented. The committee voted unanimously to forward these recommendations to the Board's Committee of the Whole for consideration during the meeting on March 26, 2021. The recommendations are:

- To authorize the Commissioner's office and degree-granting institutions to begin piloting direct transfer associate degree pathways and;
- To begin work on updating Board policies to create more transfer-focused associate degree structures.

The committee also heard two annual reports. The first was from co-chairs Dr. Nancy Hauck of Dixie State University and Dr. Jessica C. Hill of Utah Valley University on the inaugural cohort of the Utah Women's Leadership Exchange, a mentoring program designed to help mid-career women employed at USHE institutions prepare for their next-level leadership role. The second was from John Sutherland, who provided the committee with an annual report on the Engineering and Computer Technology Initiative Annual Report from the Technology Initiative Advisory Board, which resulted in an increase of 434 additional engineering degrees between 2018 and 2020.

The bulk of the meeting was focused on discussing the Board's strategic plan, including its definitions, timeline, and the Equity Lens Framework.

Commissioner's Recommendation

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

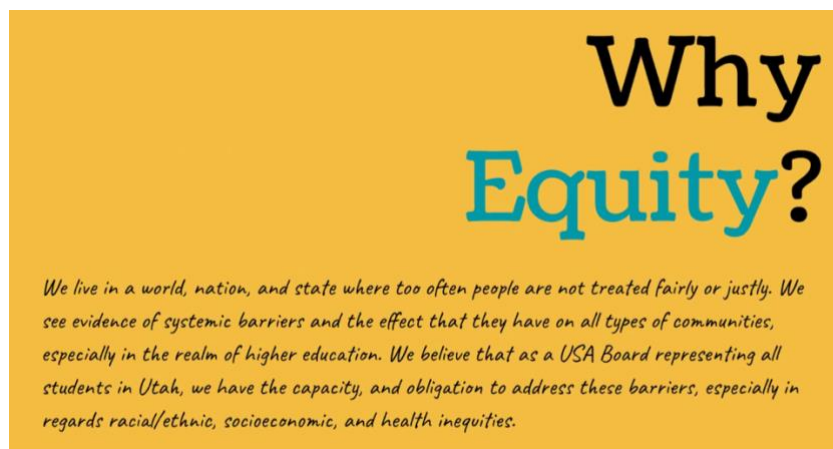


March 26, 2021

Student Affairs Committee Report

During its meeting on February 19, 2021, the Student Affairs Committee held discussions on the following priority topics:

- Marlon Lynch and Stacey Bettridge discussed improving campus safety as the committee considers how to implement recommendations presented in a [White Paper](#) drafted by the University Chiefs Work Group of the Utah Chiefs of Police Association. One priority request made by the Chiefs is for minimum agreed-upon annual officer training. Bettridge and Lynch are following up with the Chiefs and will report back to the committee in April.
- Board member Jera Bailey, UVU, and Weber State University presented on the campus mental health initiatives and efforts led by the JED Foundation across Utah. The committee is keeping track of efforts to adapt the initiatives to each Utah campus, including technical colleges.
- A [compelling presentation](#) from USHE student leaders on racial and ethnic equity gave the committee important insight on what progress and success could look like from a student perspective.



Courtesy: Utah Student Association

- A status update was given on state scholarship program revisions made during the 2021 legislative session.
- Ogden-Weber Technical college and Utah State University presented on the critical need to incorporate a student basic needs component into the Board strategic plan discussion.

The committee concluded with an initial discussion on the tactics the committee is considering to accomplish the Access goal in the Board’s draft strategic plan, including its definitions, timeline, and the Equity Lens Framework.

Commissioner’s Recommendation

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Technical Education Committee Report

During its meeting on February 19, 2021, meeting, the Technical Education Committee held discussions on the following topics:

Credit Task Force Update

The Board created the task force to study the possibility of transitioning clock-hour institutions to credit hours to provide a common currency within the system and address barriers impacting access and completion. The group met to understand potential implications of this change considering operating characteristics that define technical education in Utah, and the desire to address limitations imposed on clock-hour institutions by the U.S. Department of Education (Department).

The task force created subcommittees for the accrediting body and the Department to evaluate rules, implications, and the process of such a transition. These groups have met several times and anticipate reporting to the full task force in early April with information to inform a recommendation on whether to proceed with this initiative. This recommendation will be presented to the Technical Education Committee.

Strategic Plan Update

The committee concluded with an initial discussion on the tactics the committee is considering to accomplish the Workforce Alignment goal in the Board's draft strategic plan, including its definitions, timeline, and the Equity Lens Framework.

Commissioner's Recommendation

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