



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

TAB A

May 21, 2021

## Academic Education and Student Affairs Committees Report

The Academic Education and Students Affairs Committees met jointly on April 16, 2021.

### Academic Education Committee

During its portion of the meeting, the Academic Education Committee addressed two action items. One was a proposal from Dixie State University for a new academic unit, a University College, which has been forwarded from the committee to the full board for consideration at the May 21, 2021 meeting. The second was to propose using our existing major's committees and existing Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) processes to solicit and work through assessments of prior learning from additional providers. That item is on the General Consent Calendar for May.

The committee addressed several discussion items and updates on its strategic plan priorities:

The Commissioner gave an overview of institutional roles and missions.

The Committee heard an update from the Board Transfer Council co-chairs, Nina Barnes and Candyce Damron. Members of the Board Transfer Council are now working with the Commissioner's office and institutional Chief Academic Officers to create new Direct Transfer Pathways in policy and to identify the top programs to pilot as transfer pathways. One of the policies that will be updated is [Board Policy R470](#), which calls for alignment and transferability of General Education core and breadth requirements within undergraduate degrees and assigns a General Education Task Force (GETF) of faculty members to establish and update those requirements. The Transfer Council has asked the GETF to make recommendations on whether adjustments to the policy might streamline transfer. The co-chairs of the GETF reported that the task force is discussing:

- Strengthening language to emphasize the value of General Education
- Strengthening curricular criteria and competencies in core and breadth areas of General Education
- The importance of High Impact Practices in introductory courses like General Education to ensure student success and completion

- Updates to the expected standards and essential learning outcomes to add equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations within the curriculum
- Examining the differences in the number of credits required for General Education at various institutions.

## **Joint Meeting of Academic Education and Student Affairs Committees**

### ***Concurrent Enrollment***

Cyd Grua of the Commissioner’s office provided an overview of Concurrent Enrollment, its availability across the state, including in rural areas, and efforts to address equity in enrolling students in the program. Presidents in attendance recommended future in-depth conversations about Concurrent Enrollment, its role in introducing students to General Education, and its impact on USHE institutions.

### ***Student Safety (R262)***

The Committees considered modifications to [Board Policy R262](#) to require implicit bias training of campus public safety officers. This is one of the recommendations of the Campus Safety Baseline Report presented in November 2020. The University Chiefs of Police presented LEXIPOL as a potential option for implicit-bias training of campus public safety officers. The proposed policy changes will be further considered at the July 2021 Committee of the Whole after the proposed training is reviewed.

### ***Student Mental Health***

Update on the JED Foundation’s activities with USHE’s degree-granting institutions. JED is hosting a statewide convening on June 14. Registration is available at [tinyurl.com/jedutahconveningsvp](https://tinyurl.com/jedutahconveningsvp).

The Commissioner’s office is also working with JED to expand services to USHE technical colleges by July 1, 2021, thanks to the efforts of Board member Bettridge in securing state funds for this opportunity.



### ***Student Basic Needs***

As the Student Affairs Committee continues its focus on student basic needs, three presentations from USHE institutions on childcare services were:

Salt Lake Community College:

- Two childcare service facilities
- Services up to 50 students
- SLCC also offers institution vouchers to use at outside providers

Ogden Weber Technical College

- Provided on-campus daycare for over 20 years but recently ceased services due to lack of sustaining revenue
- OWTECH leases space at Head Start
- Plan to use HEERF funding to support low-income students childcare needs

Weber State University

- Hourly on-campus childcare available since 1998
- Accommodates up to 12 children
- WSU also offers subsidized vouchers for \$3.50/hour

### ***Staff/Faculty Recruitment and Hiring***

Two academic vice-presidents, Clifton Sanders of SLCC and Wayne Vaught of UVU, discussed the importance of recruitment and retention of diverse faculty and staff in order to address student access and completion. Both UVU and SLCC use a “diversity advocates” model to guide faculty searches. The presentation emphasized the need to address faculty retention through work load policies that recognize the efforts required of the type of high impact instruction that will lead to greater student success and completion. Board members requested follow up conversations on “diversity advocates” models on the campuses.

### ***Streamlined Admissions/Common Application***

Committees discussed the concept of a statewide admissions portal. The Concurrent Enrollment program uses a “common participation form” portal that serves as an admissions application for students who start college through Concurrent Enrollment. As statewide scholarships are revised with a new common application platform building off that CE application, Commissioner’s staff will work with USHE institutions to explore the feasibility of leveraging the platform as a college pre-admissions portal for Utah colleges. The portal is envisioned as a tool that will promote access to college for all students, including underrepresented students

### ***Student Affairs Committee***

#### ***Policy Revisions to State Scholarship Programs***

Opportunity Scholarship will replace the Regents’ and New Century Scholarships using updated, more equitable criteria aligned to Board strategic priorities and will be available for the class of 2022. The proposed Policy R608 formalizes the Board’s recommendations from December 2020, for implementation for the 2021-22 academic year.

#### ***Utah College Access Advisors Expansion***

Some things the UCAC have been working on:

- Conversations with all districts in the school
- In process of recruiting advisors
- Recruiting coordinators
- Planning fall training and college tour
- New money received – discussing how to use resources effectively, how to provide more high school support, support to rural schools, plans to share in a coming weeks

Program expansion is being done with attention to how it will positively impact underrepresented students. Recruitments for advisors and coordinators have been posted, awaiting updated list of high schools for 2021-22.

## ***Humanizing the Equity Lens Framework***

*Presentation from:*

*Laís Martinez, Special Assistant to the Commissioner-EDI*

*Adrienne Andrews, Chief Diversity Officer, Weber State University*

*Kyle Reyes, Vice President of Student Affairs, Utah Valley University*

Humans long for two primary things: purpose and connection.

- Our humanity is found in our ability to facilitate the pursuit of these goals with others.
- If we are committed to humanity, we must be deliberate in our desire to develop new and diverse lenses grounded in cultural humility.
- 4 Lenses of Humanity
  - Introspective – engage in ongoing self-analysis, reflection, and lens checking
  - Contextual – study and engage with diversity of history, thought, and perspective
  - Interpersonal – learn from and improve empathy for diverse individuals
  - Communal – connect with and lift groups and communities

These and other items were then prioritized within the Board’s strategic plan draft for further consideration during the May meeting.

### **Commissioner’s Recommendation**

This is an information item. No action is necessary.



May 21, 2021

## Technical Education Committee Report

During its meeting on April 22, 2021, meeting, the Technical Education Committee held discussions on the following topics:

### Strategic Plan

With the intent to support the Commissioner’s office in focusing resources and capacities, the committee discussed and prioritized the strategies within the Workforce Alignment area of the strategic plan.

The following are the results of this effort:

Tier I: Most important and most urgent	Tier II: Important but less urgent
Increase higher education participation rate of adults with/without a high school diploma	Increase student participation in work-based learning activities.
Ensure students are meaningfully informed on the value and ROI of higher education.	Increase participation in training to reskill/upskill students to support employment progression and wage potential.

### Institutional Roles

One of the Utah Board of Higher Education’s core responsibilities is to “establish, approve, and oversee each institution's mission and role.” The Legislature establishes basic categories of roles, and the Board expands and clarifies those roles through policy.

The system office is conducting an inventory of certificate programs and continuing education training offered across the system. Once compiled, the information will be evaluated to ensure appropriate alignment of training opportunities with institutional mission and role.

The Board will discuss this further in the May meeting.

### Credit Task Force Update

The Technical Education Committee created the Credit Task Force in November 2020 to evaluate and ensure that a transition from clock-hours to credit hours would:

- result in a common currency used by all 16 USHE institutions;
- resolve attendance and distance education challenges; and

- ensure U.S. Department of Education and accreditation rules would not further restrict student access or completion by compromising the flexible enrollment and scheduling currently provided for competency-based education.

Following several months of study, which included discussions and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Occupational Education, the accrediting body for technical colleges in Utah, the Task Force concluded that transitioning to credit will address and resolve these issues.

The Task Force recommended the Technical Education Committee support this strategic initiative, and the Committee agreed. The credit initiative will be presented to the Board in May.

### **Course Alignment Effort**

Tammy Wilkerson, the Vice President of Instruction at Uintah Basin Technical College, presented an initiative between several technical colleges to align courses. The intent is for faculty to collaborate, share instructional resources to increase efficiency and quality, and increase the transferability of coursework between institutions. The presentation included an overview of the process and outcomes of this effort.

The committee recommended the Committee of the Whole include the course alignment initiative with participation from all programs possible, as a system priority.

### **Revision of Technical College Policy 202 (R432), Custom Fit**

Jared Haines, Senior Advisor of Technical Education, explained that the Custom Fit Program provides customized training to Utah employees through the eleven institutions that offer technical education. As program oversight transitioned from UTech to the combined higher education system, the Commissioner's office conducted a statewide review of Custom Fit policies, practices, and results.

Based on the review's findings, the committee recommended the Custom Fit policy revisions be advanced to the full Board for consideration.

### **Commissioner's Recommendation**

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