



ISSUE BRIEF

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Commissioner Dave Woolstenhulme

Utah Board of Higher Education Statutory Responsibilities and Authorities

The Utah Legislature established the Utah Board of Higher Education July 1 2020 and enacted specific and comprehensive responsibilities and authorities. Below are the Board's responsibilities and authorities as stated in Utah Code 53B-1-402.

The Board of Higher Education Is:

- The governing board for the institutions of higher education, which controls, manages, and supervises the Utah system of higher education

The Board of Higher Education Shall:

- Establish and promote a state-level vision and goals for higher education that emphasize system priorities, including:
 - Quality
 - Affordability
 - Access and equity
 - Completion
 - Workforce alignment and preparation for high-quality jobs
 - Economic growth
- Establish policies and practices that advance the vision and goals
- Establish metrics to demonstrate and monitor:
 - Performance related to the goals and
 - Performance on measures of operational efficiency
- Collect and analyze data including economic data, demographic data, and data related to the metrics
- Coordinate data collection across institutions
- Establish, approve, and oversee each institution's mission and role in accordance with Section 53B-16-101
- Assess an institution's performance in accomplishing the institution's mission and role
- Participate in the establishment and review of programs of instruction in accordance with Section 53B-16-102

- Perform duties related to an institution of higher education president, including:
 - Appointing an institution of higher education president in accordance with Sections 53B-2-102 and 53B-2a-107
 - Providing support and guidance to an institution of higher education president
 - Evaluating an institution of higher education president based on institution performance and progress toward system-wide priorities
- Create and implement a strategic finance plan for higher education, including by:
 - Establishing comprehensive budget and finance priorities for academic education and technical education
 - Allocating statewide resources to institutions
 - Setting tuition for each institution
 - Administering state financial aid programs
 - Administering performance funding in accordance with Chapter 7, Part 7, Performance Funding
 - Developing a strategic capital facility plan and prioritization process in accordance with Sections 53B-2a-117 and 53B-2a-118 (commonly referred to as SB 102)
- Create a seamless articulated education system for Utah students that responds to changing demographics and workforce, including by:
 - Providing for statewide prior learning assessment, in accordance with Section 53B-16-110
 - Establishing and maintaining clear pathways for articulation and transfer, in accordance with Section 53B-16-105
 - Establishing degree program requirement guidelines, including credit hour limits
 - Aligning general education requirements across degree-granting institutions
 - Coordinating and incentivizing collaboration and partnerships between institutions in delivering programs
 - Coordinating distance delivery of programs
 - coordinating work-based learning
- Coordinate with the public education system:
 - Regarding public education programs that provide postsecondary credit or certificates
 - To ensure that an institution of higher education providing technical education serves secondary students in the public education system
- Delegate to an institution board of trustees certain duties related to institution governance including:
 - Guidance and support for the institution president
 - Effective administration
 - The institution's responsibility for contributing to progress toward achieving system-wide goals
 - Other responsibilities determined by the board
- Delegate to an institution of higher education president management of the institution of higher education
- Maximize efficiency throughout the Utah system of higher education by identifying and establishing shared administrative services
- Develop strategies for providing higher education, including career and technical education, in rural areas
- Manage and facilitate a process for initiating, prioritizing, and implementing education reform initiatives
- Provide ongoing quality review of institutions.