Utah Board of Higher Education
Student Affairs Committee
Teleconference
Friday, June 18, 2021

Agenda

1:00 PM – 1:10 PM	**Welcome, Introduction of New Student Board Members** *Lisa Michele Church, Committee Chair*	
1:10 PM – 1:30 PM	**Discussion: Student Basic Needs and Security** *Beth Holbrook, Utah Transit Authority*	TAB A
1:30 PM – 1:55 PM	**Discussion: Statewide Admissions Platform** *Spencer Jenkins, USHE* *Corey Mikkelsen, Dir. Of Recruitment & Assoc. Dir. Of Admissions, USU* *Scott Teichert, Executive Director of Admissions, WSU* *Brandon Wright, AVP Admissions & Recruitment, SUU* *Kris Coles, Admissions Director, UVU*	TAB B
1:55 PM – 2:15 PM	**Presentation: JED Campus Utah Convening & Next Steps** *Spencer Jenkins, USHE*	TAB C
2:15 PM – 2:25 PM	**Update and Discussion: Utah College Advising Corp** *Nicole Batt, Executive Director/Associate Dean, UU*	TAB D
2:25 PM – 2:35 PM	**Introduction: USHE Student Safety and Equity Commission** *Candyce Damron, Student Board Member*	
2:35 PM – 2:40 PM	**Action: Adult Learner Scholarship Policy** *Cassidy Stortz, USHE Scholarship Manager*	TAB E
2:40 PM – 2:45 PM	**Board Process Review** *Spencer Jenkins, USHE*	
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	**Discussion & Follow-Up from May 21 Retreat** *Commissioner Woolstenhulme, Melanie Heath, Laís Martinez*	

Projected times for the various meetings are estimates only. The Chair may to take action at any time. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during this meeting should notify ADA

Coordinator, 60 South 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84180 (801-646-4783), at least three working days prior to the meeting. TDD # 801-321-7130.

June 18, 2021

Student Basic Needs and Security: Transportation

The Student Affairs Committee continues its exploration of the growing basic needs challenges college students face, especially those from historically underserved populations. This is the third discussion with the committee, the scope of which includes:

- Food insecurity
- Affordable housing
- Transportation
- Child care services
- Access to technology

Beth Holbrook, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), will facilitate discussion on public transportation options and partnerships for college students. UTA is a special service district responsible for providing public transportation throughout the Wasatch Front of Utah, in the United States, which includes the metropolitan areas of Ogden, Park City, Provo, Salt Lake City, and Tooele. It operates fixed route buses, flex route buses, express buses, ski buses, three light rail lines in Salt Lake County (TRAX), a streetcar line in Salt Lake City (the S-Line), and a commuter rail train (FrontRunner) from Ogden through Salt Lake City to Provo.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is a discussion item only; no action is required

UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

June 18, 2021

Exploring a Statewide Admissions Platform

The concept of a statewide admissions form or application has floated among Utah's higher education leadership and adminiatrators ever since a study was initiatied in September 2014 by the then Board of Regents. According to May 2015 Board meeting materials, there was never a recommendation by Commissioner's staff or consultants to establish a statewide application. Rather, there were five recommendations to establish common practices, and even some statewide processes or services:

1. **Electronic Transcript Upload:** Develop a state-level service for applicants to upload high school transcripts that easily link them to their application at time of submission. Additionally, work with K-12 leaders on making sure transcript data is coded properly and is true and accurate.
2. **Common Residency Determination:** Standardize residency procedures and requirements. Establish whether more centralized coordination is necessary to reduce barrier so applicants only need to submit documentation once.
3. **Concurrent Enrollment:** Standardize the Concurrent Enrollment application process and change of status process (to degree-seeking) for applicants across USHE institutions.
4. **Social Security Number:** Allow applicants to move through and submit an application without the SSN. In some cases, SSN is optional, but not required.
5. **Application Fee Waiver:** Develop a standardized process and provide fee waivers for applicants with demonstrated need.

Assessing the postsecondary application and admissions experience requires the involvement of several stakeholders including students, technology leaders, admissions experts, and others to ensure processes are equitable and accessible for all students. For this discussion, a panel of institution admissions leaders will discuss the considerations in ensuring an accessible onboarding for new students.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is a discussion item only; no action required

**UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION**

June 18, 2021

Mental Health Update

JED Campus Utah Convening

In January 2020, USHE partnered with The JED Foundation. JED, established in 2000, provides a comprehensive approach to decrease risk factors and increase protective factors for mental health and suicide among college students. JED works with over 300 universities and colleges nationwide—from the most prestigious to the most affordable and community-focused. This unique statewide partnership, which also includes Brigham Young University and Westminster College, is made possible through the generous support of The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation.

The first year of the four-year JED Campus program has been focused on onboarding the campuses, building campus teams, administering the Healthy Minds Study to collect student data, completing the JED Campus baseline assessment, and engaging in a campus visit with JED Campus Advisors and Subject Matter Experts. While this initial stage was delayed due to COVID-19, in June 2021, USHE institutions published their short-term and longer-term 3-year strategic goals at the USHE/JED statewide convening. These strategic goals are the basis from which USHE institutions are implementing their goals over the next three years. The primary objective of JED's comprehensive approach is to ensure an equitable resourcing of best practices and programs tailored for each institution, yet following a common framework with common outcomes that promote mental health and prevent suicide.

Expanding JED Campus to Technical Colleges

Thanks to the legislative efforts of Board members and legislators, funding was appropriated in the 2021 Legislative Session to expand the partnership to the eight USHE technical colleges. USHE and JED are working together to develop a tailored comprehensive model specific to technical colleges to complement the four-year cohort model for USHE's degree-granting institutions, set to launch July 2021. Representatives from all of the technical colleges met with JED in early June 2021 to develop a tailored scope of services that best fit the mission and variety of needs at each technical college.

Partnership with Huntsman Mental Health

In 2019, the Huntsman family announced a $150 million gift over 15 years to the University of Utah to establish the Huntsman Mental Health Institute (HMHI), the largest single donation to the USHE flagship. With the establishment of the institute in January 2021 and the groundbreaking of the Mental

Health Crisis Care Center in May 2021, HMHI stands to transform mental health services for the State of Utah and, more specifically, 18- to 24-year-olds who are the most impacted by mental health trauma.

Commissioner Woolstenhulme has started conversations with HMHI's Executive Director, Mark Rapaport to identify specific areas that support both the Board's focus on student mental health as well as HMHI's statewide vision. Some potential areas currently being explored:

- Reduce stigma annual student video contest partnership with Utah Film Commission and Sundance Institute.
- Establish mobile mental health crisis teams statewide embedded and anchored at higher ed institutions.
- Partner with the Mental Health Innovation Network to explore innovative post-bachelor mental health credentials to fuel the the persistent workforce shortage in mental health.
- Pilot social and organizational change incubators in the mental health field.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is a discussion item only; no action is required

**UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION**

June 18, 2021

Utah College Access Advisers

With the 2021 expansion of the UCAC program, a total of **93 schools** will be served directly by Access Advisers support. Advisers will be embedded in their schools using three models:

- Advisers serving schools with a senior class of over 200 students, with a college-going rate of less than 48%, will do so in a one-to-one model. Each high school that meets these criteria will have a single adviser dedicated to their school throughout the year.

- Advisers serving schools with a senior class of fewer than 200 students will work in a cluster model. Clusters of smaller rural schools have been identified where a single adviser can serve the cluster, ensuring a regular and dependable schedule of in-person visits each week.

- Advisers serving rural schools with a senior class smaller than 50 will work in a remote-predominant model. These advisers will be stationed at the Office of the Commissioner, connecting with students via video conference, phone, email, and text. In addition, remote advisers will travel to each of their schools multiple times a year to foster in-person connections.

Nicole Batt, Assistant Dean in the Office of Engagement at the University of Utah and Executive Director of the Utah College Advising Corps, will update the committee on the expansion as well as how the program promotes equity for underrepresented students.

Commissioner's Recommendation

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

June 18, 2021

Adoption of Policy R616, *Adult Learner Grant Program*

During the 2021 General Session, the Legislature passed HB 328, which establishes the Adult Learners Grant to be administered by the Utah Board of Higher Education. The Adult Learners Grant provides an opportunity for adult learners seeking online education to receive financial assistance.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Student Affairs Committee advance the proposed Board Policy R616, *Adult Learner Grant Program* to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

Attachments

R616, Adult Learner Grant Program[1]

R616-1 Purpose: To provide financial assistance for adult learners pursuing an online degree in a field of industry need.

R-616-2 References

>**2.1** Utah Code
>
>**2.2** Utah Admin. Code
>
>**2.3** Board Policy and Procedures R616

R616-3 Definitions

>**3.1 "Cost of attendance"** means the estimated costs associated with taking an online course, as established by an eligible institution in accordance with Board policies.

>>**3.1.1** "Cost of attendance" includes tuition, costs payable to the eligible institution, and other direct educational expenses related to taking an online course.

>**3.2 "Eligible Institution"** means an institution that offers a postsecondary level course of instruction using digital technology.

>**3.3 "Eligible Student"** means a student who meets the eligibility criteria established in section 4.

>**3.4 "Fiscal Year"** means the fiscal year of the state.

>**3.5 "Institution"** means an institution described in Section 53B-1-102 or a Utah private, nonprofit postsecondary institution that is accredited by a regional accrediting organization that the Board recognizes.

>**3.6 "Online course"** means a postsecondary level course of instruction offered by an eligible institution using digital technology.

>**3.7 "Program"** means

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[1] Adopted 6/18/2021

3.7.1 a sequence of online courses that lead to a certificate or other recognized educational credential;

3.7.2 is made up of only online courses, meaning a student can complete the program through online course offerings; and

3.7.3 prepares students for employment in four-star or five-star jobs as defined by the Department of Workforce Services.

3.8 "Tuition" means tuition and fees at the rate charged for residents of the state.

R616-4 Grant Eligibility

4.1 To be eligible for a grant under this section, a student shall:

4.1.1 Be 26 years or older

4.1.2 Be enrolled in an online program at an eligible institution in a field designed to meet industry needs and leading to a certificate or other recognized educational credential

4.1.3 Be a Utah resident as determined by Board Policy R512

4.1.4 Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

4.1.5 Demonstrate financial need by being eligible for a Pell Grant

4.2 Grant funding will be prioritized for students who:

4.2.1 Are from rural areas of the state, as defined in U.A. C. R523-1-5 by the Department of Health, which includes all counties except Utah, Salt Lake, Davis & Weber

4.2.2 Are a member of a racial or ethnic minority

4.2.3 Are classified as low income

4.2.4 Are pursuing education in degree programs aligned to four- or five-star jobs as established by the Department of Workforce Services.

R616-5 Process for Allocating Grant Funding to Eligible Institutions

5.1 By April 15 of each year, participating eligible institutions shall submit the following to the Office of the Commissioner:

5.1.1 Total FTE enrollment for the prior academic year

5.1.2 Declared majors at fall end of term by eligible online programs

5.2 The Office of the Commissioner will allocate the funding based on the data provided in section 5.1 funding on or before July 1 of each year.

R616-6 Process for Awarding Grants to Eligible Students

6.1 Eligible institutions that receive grant funding are responsible for establishing a process to award grants along with other financial aid. When establishing a process for award grants, institutions shall:

6.1.1 Award grants on an annual basis and distribute grant money on a quarter or semester basis;

6.1.2 Except for provided in section 4.2, award grants without regard to an applicant's race, creed, color, religion, sex, or ancestry;

6.1.3 Ensure the total sum of program grant, and financial aid from any source, do not exceed the cost of attendance for an eligible student at an eligible institution for a fiscal year;

6.1.4 Determine award amounts within the minimum and maximum award range as established annually by the Board;

6.1.5 Ensure all funds received from the grant shall be applied towards the cost of attendance.

R616-7 Process for Allocating Grant Funding to Eligible Institutions

7.1 Institutions that receive grant funding shall report annually to the Commissioner's office the following:

7.1.1 Number of grant recipients

7.1.2 Average award of grant money provided per grant recipient

7.1.3 Benefits in fulfillment of the purposes for this program

7.1.4 Recommendations for program modification, including recommended funding

7.2 The Board shall annually report data and information collected under this section to the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.