



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB C

August 20, 2021

Discussion: Draft Research Priority of the Board's Strategic Plan

In 2020, Utah's two higher education systems merged, creating a single system of 16 higher education institutions. The Utah Board of Higher Education adopted a comprehensive strategic plan in May 2021 to guide the newly-merged System for the next five years. The Board's strategic plan focuses on six key priorities:

- System Unification
- Access
- Affordability
- Completion
- Workforce Alignment
- Research

The Research priority of the strategic plan was added at the May 2021 Board meeting, as research is an important institutional role of degree-granting institutions. It contributes millions of dollars to the state's economy, creates thousands of jobs and hundreds of companies, improves the quality of life by addressing key issues within the state, and results in numerous direct technology transfers.

The Commissioner's office worked in partnership with the University of Utah and Utah State University to develop a draft of the priority, strategies, and tactics (attached) for discussion at the Academic Education Committee. Based on the committee's recommendation, the Commissioner's office will present a final draft of the priority to the Board for consideration at the September 2021 meeting.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the Academic Education Committee discuss the draft Research priority and forward its recommendations to the Board of Higher Education for adoption into the Board's strategic plan.

Attachment

PRIORITY

RESEARCH

BOARD'S ROLE

Communicating/Advocating for the role of research in innovation, discovery (cutting-edge), technology transfer, workforce/economic development, and community engagement and impact; state funding to support graduate students, research

GOAL

What goal can we reach in 5 years?

STRATEGY

Advocate for the role of research in innovation, technology transfer, economic development/workforce, and community engagement and impact

Ensure institutions have needed supports to conduct research and support graduate students

TACTIC

DEGREE-GRANTING		TECHNICAL
Build into legislative narrative		
Integrate role of research into strategic marketing campaign		
Mechanism for research to be more ingrained in Board discussions/decisions		
Point of the Mountain Innovation Hub		
	DEGREE-GRANTING	TECHNICAL
	Consider one-time funds in 2022 budget request to support research facilities	
	Include research initiatives at research universities in Board budget process that are most high-impact (community health, etc.)	
	Identify state-level issues, rely on research universities to lead out on innovations and solutions to issue, serve as leader for other institutions and demonstrate partnerships with other institutions, through strategic funding	