



September 17, 2021

## Campus Safety and Equity Commission

The informally-established student-led commission advises the Utah Board of Higher Education on a wide variety of safety and equity issues, including physical safety, campus law enforcement, sexual harassment, sexual violence, discrimination, mental health and affordability.

The establishment of a USHE Campus Safety and Equity Commission is based on a recommendation of the [USHE Campus Safety study](#) adopted in Fall 2020 to reduce communication barriers identified by students on state-level issues. The establishment of the commission was also initially part of campus safety legislation, [SB 163](#), adopted by the Utah State Legislature. However, the provisions for the commission were ultimately dropped in final passage in the 2021 General Session. In April 2021, the Utah Student Association, in coordination with student Board members, voted to create a Campus Safety and Equity Commission by appointing two members from each degree-granting institution. The Campus Safety and Equity Commission held its first meeting in July 2021.

Current Board member, Tanner Marcum, has worked with participating commission members to develop a charter that will be the foundation of anticipated Board policy, a draft of which is expected at the October 2021 Student Affairs Committee. Lisa Michele Church, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, has requested updates of the committee's activities at all committee meetings.

The membership of the commission is intended to demonstrate the varied student voices that represent those from underrepresented or marginalized populations. An inherent challenge enlisting participation from the most representative students has highlighted the limited availability students, who face such daunting barriers in college, have to carve out the time necessary to participate on such a commission. It has been suggested the Board, as it contemplates formalizing the commission in policy, enable equitable compensation in the form of scholarships for those students who participate on the commission. Such compensation may be viewed similarly to that of the long-standing tradition supporting the participation of student Board members.

### Commissioner's Recommendation

Commissioner recommends staff work with student Board members and the chair of the Student Affairs Committee to develop policy that:

1. Formalizes the role of the Campus Safety and Equity Commission
2. Enable the Board to provide equitable compensation via scholarship funds for students who provide their time and insights in support of Board priorities.

### Attachment

Campus Safety & Equity Commission  
Utah System of Higher Education

**Section 1: Mission & Purpose**

The mission and purpose of the Campus Safety & Equity Commission (CSEC) is to capture the student voice on the state-wide level on issues related to safety and equity at USHE institutions. CSEC serves as an organized feedback group of diverse\* students from USHE institutions to ensure institutional and state-level safety and equity-related policies, procedures, and programs hear and access the student perspective. The Commission engages with state and local policy makers, institutional leaders, organizations partnered with USHE, and other student groups across the State. CSEC is committed to providing honest feedback, recommendations, and student insight to the aforementioned groups and advocates for the well-being, safety, and equity for **all** students across the state.

**Section 2: Membership & Organization**

1. The Campus Safety & Equity Commission includes the following individuals and groups:
  - a. Chair & Vice-chair
    - i. The appointed Academic Student Representative Board Member shall act as Chair.
    - ii. The appointed Technical College Student Representative Board Member shall act as Vice-chair.
    - iii. Both Chair and Vice-chair will begin their service on July 1.
  - b. Institution Student Members
    - i. The CSEC will include between 16-24 student members in addition to the appointed Student Representative Board Members.
    - ii. Each USHE institution shall support the Commissioner's Office in outreach for CSEC and in promoting and encouraging diverse students to apply. The Commissioner's Officer shall work with the Student Representative Board Members to select Commission members to be brought forward to the full Board for approval. Applications are due by June 15.
    - iii. Each institution student member will serve a one-year term with the opportunity to re-apply for one additional term for a maximum of two terms. Re-application is a signed form for incumbent members to indicate continued commitment to the mission of the Commission and associated responsibilities. Terms will begin on August 1.
  - c. Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) Staff
    - i. The Chief Student Affairs Officer, Assistant Commissioner for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and State Aid and Access Manager shall be members of the CSEC. Other USHE staff members may act as consultants as described in Section 2, 1, b.

- d. Others
  - i. Outside experts in areas within the scope of the Commission may be invited to participate as consultants in Commission meetings and reviews. Any Commission member may bring forward experts to the Commission leaders and members for a potential invitation to participate and consult.

### **Section 3: Scope**

The Campus Safety & Equity Commission has several areas connected to campus safety and equity within scope including the following listed below. The list is not exhaustive and other areas, and associated policies, may be pursued for discussion by the Commission as the members see fit. The Commission provides feedback and recommendations in these areas to ensure Utah students, including those who have historically been underserved or under-represented such as undocumented, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and first-generation students, have a safe and equitable experience throughout their time within USHE.

- Physical safety
- Campus law enforcement
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual assault
- Discrimination
- Emergency procedures & protocols
- Community involvement with safety
- Mental health
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Admissions
- Sports teams
- Student resources
- Scholarships, funding, & financial aid

### **Section 4: Responsibilities & Duties**

1. Chair
  - a. Complete administrative tasks, meeting scheduling, email communications, etc.
  - b. Act as the liaison to Utah Board of Higher Education and provide updates to associated Board Committees
  - c. Provide updates to Commission members on Board movements on safety & equity items
  - d. Confirm meeting agendas including setting expectations for meeting preparation and applicable assignments
  - e. Assist in the selection of Commission members to be brought forward to the full Board
  - f. Participate in all duties of Institution Student Members
2. Vice-chair

- a. Consult with Chair on meeting agendas and Commission direction and work
  - b. Bring specific insights related to USHE Technical colleges into the Commission discussions and efforts
  - c. Participate in all duties of Institution Student Members
3. Institution Student Members
    - a. Attend and contribute to Commission meetings and conversations
    - b. Complete preparatory assignments, research, work, etc. as required prior to meetings
    - c. Engage in shared leadership by facilitating Commission meetings and assisting in meeting preparation on a rotational basis
    - d. Engage with their institutional leaders, students, and staff, especially in the areas of campus safety and equity to obtain feedback and their students' voices on Commission topics
    - e. Bring forward ideas, recommendations, etc. for the Commission to discuss
4. USHE Staff
    - a. Consult regularly with Commission Chair and Vice-chair on potential agenda items and outside meeting attendees/organizations
    - b. Provide resources and recommendations for Commission work and discussion items
    - c. Attend and contribute to Commission meetings
    - d. Own and operate communication channels (Slack)

#### **Section 5: Meetings & Procedures**

1. The Commission shall hold formal meetings at least once monthly at a day and time determined by the Chair in consultation with the Commission members
2. Meetings shall be facilitated by all Commission members on a rotational basis to encourage the principle of shared leadership and accountability to the Commission
3. If the Institution Student Members do not feel the Chair and/or Vice Chair are fulfilling their duties or representing the voice of the Commission accurately, they may request intervention from the Commissioner of Education and/or the Chair of the Utah Board of Higher Education.

#### **Section 6: Compensation – Details TBD**

1. The student members of the CSEC shall receive compensation in the form of a scholarship from the scholarship fund controlled by the Utah Board of Higher Education.

\*Below is language from the [USHE Equity Lens Framework](#) on how we define diverse and intersectional identities.

This lens considers the following emergent, fluid, and intersectional identities as part of the Board's efforts to value the perspective and knowledge that each student brings to higher education learning spaces; this list is neither comprehensive nor exhaustive:

- Age
- Gender identity and expression
- Sexual orientation
- Religious affiliation
- Socioeconomic status
- Citizenship status and country of origin
- Ability/disability
- Veteran status
- First-generation student status
- English language learners
- Geographic location (including rural, urban, sheltered, and unsheltered)