



October 29, 2021

## Student Report

### **Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council**

The informally established Campus Safety and Equity Commission has been meeting monthly since July 2021. The 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 the 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 following policy revisions seek to formalize the efforts of this group as the Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council to the Board of Higher Education:

#### **Revisions to Board Policy R120: Establishes the Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council**

The mission and purpose of the Campus Safety & Equity Advisory Council (CSEAC) is to represent the student voice in advising the Board at a statewide level on issues related to safety and equity at USHE institutions. CSEAC strives to organize feedback from diverse students from USHE institutions to ensure institutional and state-level safety and equity-related policies, procedures, and programs and hear and access the student perspective. The council will engage with state and local policymakers, institutional leaders, organizations partnered with USHE, and other student groups across the state. CSEAC provides regular feedback, recommendations, and student insight to the aforementioned groups and advocates for all students' well-being, safety, and equity across the state to the UBHE. The proposed changes to Board Policy R120 proposes to formalize the council's role.

#### **Revisions to Board Policy R582: Stipends for Students Serving the Board**

Revisions to Board Policy R582 formalize the Board's ability to provide a stipend to students who serve as student board members defined in R609-3 or as members of the Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council as defined in R120-3.10. The proposed policy revisions allow the Commissioner to determine the amounts of student stipends under this policy.

### **Utah Student Association Resolution: Lauren's Promise**

The Utah Student Association (comprised of student presidents of the USHE degree-granting institutions) adopted a resolution on October 1, 2021, recommending Lauren's Promise be included in all syllabi at Utah universities and colleges. The Lauren McCluskey Foundation developed Lauren's Promise to promote greater safety on college campuses. Lauren McCluskey, a University of Utah student, was tragically murdered on October 22, 2018, on campus due to relationship violence. Dr. Jill McCluskey, Lauren's mother and professor at Washington State University, advocates for all professors to include a statement, Lauren's Promise, within their syllabi. The promise reads, "I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you," and is typically followed by emergency and university resource information. The promise has been adopted by the University of Utah, Utah State University, and Brigham Young University.

### **Commissioner's Recommendation**

The Commissioner recommends the Student Affairs Committee approve the proposed revisions to Board Policies R120 and R582 and advance them to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

### **Attachments**

Campus Safety & Equity Commission  
Utah System of Higher Education

**Section 1: Mission & Purpose**

The mission and purpose of the Campus Safety & Equity Commission (CSEC) are 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, programs and hear and access the student perspective. The commission engages with state and local policymakers, 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 all students' well-being, safety, and equity across the state.

**Section 2: Membership & Organization**

1. The Campus Safety & Equity Commission includes the following individuals and groups:
  - a. Chair and 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 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 office 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 a 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 commission's scope 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 CSEC 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 the USHE.

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

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

1. Chair
  - a. Complete administrative tasks, meeting scheduling, email communications, etc.
  - b. Act as the liaison to the Utah Board of Higher Education and provide updates to associated Board committees
  - c. Provide updates to commission members on Board movements on safety and 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. All commission members shall facilitate meetings 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 higher 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)

Meeting Date: 9.24.21

The following are core recommendations brought forward by the Campus Safety & Equity Commission on admissions and financial aid. These recommendations aim to create an equitable environment, increase accessibility for students, and enhance the student experience in Utah.

- **Re-evaluate application fees and consider fee waivers.** These fees/charges in applying for schools create a barrier for students and may discourage students from applying to several schools or completing an application altogether. At the very least, increasing transparency for how the fee is used and why it is deemed necessary would be progress.
- **Educate and inform high school counselors regarding college admissions, options, and eligibility.** Several undocumented persons have been told they could not apply or enroll in a state institution by high school counselors and others, which is not true.
- **Institutions should offer admissions applications in other languages, especially for English learning programs (i.e., Spanish).** While students generally speak English on campuses and in classes, for many just starting, especially non-traditional students, having an application in their native language ensures a better understanding and a faster application process.
- **Admissions applications should have more than "male" or "female" gender identities.** Students in Utah and everywhere identify in many ways, and applications should be more inclusive of this.
- **Re-evaluate scholarship applications and languages.** Scholarship applications may favor native English speakers and deter non-native speakers from applying due to difficulty in understanding.
- **Reconsider how admissions officials weigh and review high school extracurricular/club/etc. participation.** Some students may have been unable to participate in these activities due to financial, family, time, or other constraints. At the very least, students should be given the option to explain why they did not or were unable to participate in those things.
- **Scholarships should be more clear for the timeframe they cover.** Some students do not understand if an academic scholarship they receive is for one semester or one year and not for each year. For example, increasing clarity and specificity will help students understand their scholarship offerings and help them plan for what else they may need to do to fund their education.
- **Increase transparency of how tuition dollars are used.** More than just a long report somewhere on the institution's website. The tuition breakdown should be simple, clear, and understandable for students to see where their money is going (e.g., a pie chart with a percentage breakdown of primary spending/fund areas). As students/parents are being asked to fund an increasing percentage of the education budget, as the funding from government sources declines, they should have more clarity on how those dollars are used.

## **R120:**

### 3.10 Advisory Councils

3.10.1 Industry Advisory Council: The Board shall establish an Industry Advisory Council that shall inform the committee for technical education; the committee for academic education; and the State Board of Education. The Industry Advisory Council shall include representation from (a) employers; (b) kindergarten through grade 12 representatives; (c) degree-granting institution faculty; and (d) technical college faculty.

3.10.2 Council of Presidents: The Board shall establish a Council of Presidents comprised of the presidents from each of the institutions and the commissioner. The commissioner shall serve as Council of Presidents chair.

3.10.3 Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council: The Board shall establish a Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council composed of a student from every USHE institutions to advise the Board on issues related to student safety and equity.

3.10.3 Other Advisory Councils: The Board may establish other advisory committees or councils as needed.

3.10.4 All matters requiring Board determination shall be addressed in a properly convened meeting of the Board or Executive Committee.

## **R582 Per Diem Compensation for Services**

### R582-3. Policy

3.1. Per Diem Rates Set by the Board: Per diem rates in effect for all other state boards and commissions are not applicable to Board of Higher Education and institutional Boards of Trustees members in the System of Higher Education until the Board of Higher Education takes affirmative action to authorize their application.

3.2. Similar Treatment for Higher Education Boards and Commissions: The public service on higher education boards requires both sacrifice and dedication which should be recognized, pursuant to express legislative intent, by a suitable per diem allowance. Such allowances should be similar to those received by the members of other appointed state boards and commissions.

3.3. Per Diem Rates the Same as Those Set by the State Director of Finance: Per diem rate changes determined by the State Director of Finance for appointed members of state boards and commissions shall automatically be placed in effect for members in attendance at official meetings of the Board of Higher Education, the several institutional Boards of Trustees, and the Board of Directors of the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (other than salaried state employees) in accordance with applicable Board policies, as of the effective dates of the Director of Finance's determinations.

3.4 Stipends for students providing service to the Board: The Board may award stipends to students who serve as student board members defined in R609-3 or as members of the Campus Safety and Equity

Advisory Council as defined in R120-3.10.3. The Commissioner shall approve the amounts and terms of any stipend identified under this section.



**USA 2021-01**

**Committee:** The Utah Student Association

**Reading and Approval Date:** October 01, 2021

**Resolution Supporting the Inclusion of Lauren's Promise in Syllabi and Initiatives to Enhance Campus Safety**

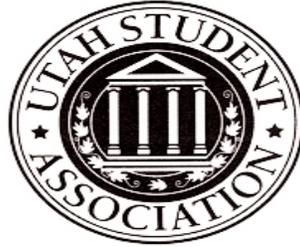
**WHEREAS** the Utah Student Association (USA) seeks to assist the McCluskey family and the Lauren McCluskey Foundation in their efforts to promote greater safety on Utah college and university campuses.

**WHEREAS** USA seeks to increase awareness of Lauren's Promise and help any person who may be in harm's way on our campuses.

**WHEREAS** the USA seeks to encourage individuals facing domestic abuse or dangerous relationship situations to reach out for help.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the USA encourages professors at colleges and universities in Utah to include Lauren's Promise in their syllabi.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the USA supports all efforts to ensure Lauren's light lives on and promote campus safety through initiatives and events on our specific campuses.

**History:**

Lauren McCluskey, a University of Utah student, was tragically murdered on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 on campus due to relationship violence. Dr. Jill McCluskey, Lauren's mother and professor at Washington State University, advocates for all professors to include a statement, Lauren's Promise, within their syllabi. The promise reads, "I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you," and is typically followed by emergency and university resource information. Professors at Washington State University, the University of Utah, Utah State University, Brigham Young University and many other universities across the country have adopted Lauren's Promise on their syllabi. At the University of Utah, ASUU passed Joint Resolution No. 6, encouraging the inclusion of Lauren's promise in syllabi and increasing overall campus safety.

**Purpose:**

This year, USA took on the initiative to promote Lauren's Promise considering the third anniversary of Lauren's death approaching, a recent reported increase in domestic violence, and October being national domestic violence awareness month. This resolution clearly manifests USA's position on professors including Lauren's Promise in their syllabi and initiatives to enhance campus safety. This resolution provides direction and support for our related efforts on our specific campuses.