Utah Board of Higher Education
Utah System of Higher Education
Thursday, July 14, 2022

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES

Board Members Present
Lisa-Michele Church, chair
Jesselie Anderson, vice chair
Grace Acosta
Stan Albrecht
Stacey Bettridge
Rich Christiansen
Hope Eccles
Heather Johnson
Patricia Jones
Arthur Newell
Shawn Newell
Steve Starks
Scott Theurer
Xitlalli Villanueva
Rick Wheeler

Board Members Absent
Julie Beck
Sanchaita Datta

Office of the Commissioner
Dave R. Woolstenhulme, Commissioner of Higher Education
Geoffrey Landward, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel
Taylor Adams, Associate Commissioner for Strategic Initiatives
Alison Adams-Perlac, Associate General Counsel
Trisha Dugovic, Director of Communication
Malin Francis, Director of Facilities & Planning
Brynn Fronk, Executive Assistant to the Utah Board of Higher Education
Jared Haines, Senior Advisor for Technical Education
Julie Hartley, Associate Commissioner of Academic Education
Melanie Heath, Assistant Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives
Vic Hockett, Talent Ready Utah Director
Lais Martinez, Assistant Commissioner for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
Carrie Mayne, Chief Economist
Jordan Passey, Budget and Planning Analyst
Juliette Tennert, Chief Financial Officer
Melissa Van Hien, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
Scott Wyatt, Senior Executive Director of Online Education
Kim Ziebarth, Associate Commissioner of Technical Education

Institutional Presidents Present
Mindy Benson, Southern Utah University (interim)  Stacee McIff, Snow College (interim)
Darin Brush, Davis Technical College  Brad Mortensen, Weber State University
Clay Christensen, Mountainland Technical College  Jordan Rushton, Dixie Technical College (interim)
Noelle Cockett, Utah State University  Aaron Weight – Uintah Basin Technical College
Chair Church called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**General Session**

**Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Church welcomed the group and highlighted concerns and challenges the system is facing. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

**How do the Strategic Plan and Statute Work Together?**

Geoff Landward reviewed statute with the group and the difference in governance between the Utah Board of Higher Education and the institutional boards of trustees. This was an information item only; no action was taken.
Update of Progress on Strategic Plan

Commissioner Woolstenhulme emphasized how important it is that the institution’s strategic plans fit into the Board’s strategic plan. He reviewed the pillars of the plan. The Commissioner shared they are meeting with each institution to receive feedback on the Board’s strategic plan. Changes to the plan will be proposed to the Board at the August committee meetings. Taylor Adams walked through the strategic plan in more detail and reviewed the plan on USHE’s website. She provided a basis for what currently exists and noted that changes will be made in the August committee meetings. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

Using Committees to Advance the Board’s Work

Chair Church reviewed the committee assignments and introduced the USHE staff members supporting each committee, Julie Hartley, Melanie Heath, Juliette Tennert, and Kim Ziebarth.

Julie Hartley provided an overview of the work of the Academic Education Committee. Melanie Health gave a summary of the Student Affairs Committee’s work. Juliette Tennert reviewed the Finance and Facilities Committee assignments. Kim summarized the work of the Technical Education Committee. This was an information item only, no action was taken.

Opportunity for All Utahns

Lais Martinez discussed the attainment gaps that exist in higher education. She stated it is extremely critical that everything we do as a Board and system is centered around equity and closing the attainment gaps. She highlighted the work that is being done including the equity lens framework and equity-related resolutions. She implored the new Board to ask in every conversation they’re a part of what is the equity imperative. She thanked the chief diversity officers for leading out on this work. This is an information item only; no action was taken.

Crisis Communications

Kelsey Richardson and Matthew Driscoll from R&R Partners provided crisis communications training to attendees. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

Breakout Sessions

The Board of Higher Education, boards of trustees, and presidents broke out into three separate breakout sessions. The Board of Higher Education discussed how the Board governs and can foster a successful system of higher education. They also discussed their next steps for the coming year. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Geoffrey Landward, Secretary

Date Approved: September 16, 2022