



August 19, 2022

## Strategic Plan: Student Affairs Committee Priorities

In 2020, Utah's two higher education systems merged, creating a single system of 16 higher education institutions. The newly-created Utah Board of Higher Education embarked on a strategic planning process to guide the new system for the next five years. To develop the strategic plan, the Board and Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education engaged in a rigorous, collaborative, and creative process that built on past initiatives from previous boards and incorporated feedback from institutions, state leaders, students, and other stakeholders. The Board formally adopted [the strategic plan](#) at the May 2021 Board meeting.

During the [October 2021 Board Committee meetings](#), each committee adopted specific strategies within the strategic plan that are relevant to the focus of that committee. Each Board committee ensures that their assigned strategies are progressing and on track, and structures their committee agendas around these strategies.

In the year that the strategic plan has been in place, several revisions have been proposed to make sure the plan stays nimble and current. During the August 2022 committee meetings, each Board committee will consider changes to the strategies assigned to their committee, and forward their recommendations on any changes to the full board for consideration at the September 2022 Board meeting.

There are no changes to the pillars, goals, or strategies assigned to the Student Affairs Committee. There are slight changes to the wording of the tactics that support those strategies, but the substance remains the same. The strategies assigned to the Student Affairs Committee are as follows:

**Pillar:** Access

**Board's role:** Remove structural barriers to entry

**Goal:** Increase the college-going rate of high school graduates by 3% in five years; Increase the college-going rate of underrepresented groups by 4% in five years

1. **Strategy:** Ensure high school students are meaningfully informed on scholarships, dual enrollment programming, financial aid, and higher education pathways
  - a. **Tactic 1:** Expand the Utah College Advising Corps statewide. Determine the effectiveness of alternate program models. Evaluate program data to determine efficacy and best practices.
  - b. **Tactic 2:** Facilitate greater regional collaboration among college access partners, with a focus on networking, training, and working toward shared college access goals aligned with the Board's strategic plan.
  - c. **Tactic 3:** Provide accessible training to access partners on USHE access programming to prepare them for meaningful conversations about post-secondary options.
  - d. **Tactic 4:** In partnership with Success in Education, redevelop the USHE segment of the Keys to Success mobile app to provide the most actionable and essential pieces of information to high school students during their college selection process.

2. **Strategy:** Simplify institutional admissions processes
  - a. **Tactic 1:** Identify system-level ways to simplify the admissions process for students and institutions.
  - b. **Tactic 2:** Connect institutions to high school student data to improve access, particularly for underrepresented student populations. Implement the Single Student Identifier systemwide. Analyze available data to determine more inclusive future measures.
3. **Strategy:** Ensure systemwide institutional supports for student basic needs.
  - a. **Tactic 1:** Advocate for and empower institutions in developing a strategy to support students' basic needs.

**Pillar:** Affordability

**Board's role:** Remove structural barriers to affordability

**Goal:** Increase student ability to pay the cost of attendance and ensure the institutional cost of attendance remains within the standard of affordability year over year

1. **Strategy:** Increase completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
  - b. **Tactic 1:** Partner with USBE to consider ways to increase FAFSA completion in high school. Develop and implement a statewide FAFSA strategy.

**Pillar:** Completion

**Board's role:** Remove structural barriers to graduation

**Goal:** Increase timely completion of degrees and awards by 3% in five years; Increase the timely completion of underrepresented students by 4% in five years

1. **Strategy:** Ensure systemwide institutional supports for student mental health and campus safety
  - c. **Tactic 1:** Identify and implement system-based mental health strategies and policies in accordance with institution mental health strategic plans being developed in partnership with the JED Foundation and Huntsman Mental Health Institute (HMHI).
  - d. **Tactic 2:** Connect institutions with Title IX training opportunities, and support and empower institutions in developing strategies to address campus safety.

## Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Student Affairs Committee adopt the strategic plan strategies assigned to their committee as outlined above, and forward this recommendation to the Committee of the Whole for inclusion in the updated strategic plan.