



September 16, 2022

Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council (CSEAC)

Background and Structure

The [Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council \(CSEAC\)](#) was formally established by the Utah Board of Higher Education in November 2021. As it enters its second academic year, CSEAC continues to serve as an organized feedback group of students from diverse backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences to ensure institutional and state-level safety and equity-related policies, procedures, and programs successfully capture the perspective of students pursuing their education at Utah’s degree-granting public colleges and universities.

Students from seven of USHE’s eight degree-granting institutions applied to be members of the 2022-2023 council. CSEAC is chaired by the degree-granting student Board member and consists of 16 students selected from nine campuses around the state (returning members are listed in bold font):

- Que Begay; USU-Blanding
- **Tiffany Chan (Vice Chair); U of U**
- Reed Hammond; SUU
- **Alayne Jenkins; USU-Eastern**
- Ta’Mariah Jenkins; USU-Logan
- Isamara Jimenez; USU-Logan
- **Julyssa Lopez; Westminster**
(exception)
- Nahjae Malone; UTU
- **Laiza Moreno; UTU**
- **Colette Mortensen; WSU**
- Daira Rodriguez; UVU
- **Aarushi Rohaj; U of U**
- Alejandra Henriquez Roncal; UTU
- Melody Sadrin; U of U
- **Lindsay Simons; SLCC**
- Ruby Vejar; WSU
- Xitlalli Villanueva (Chair); WSU

CSEAC holds seven virtual meetings throughout the school year. Members may serve up to two academic years and receive a \$1,000 scholarship per academic year of service. CSEAC utilizes a shared leadership model that includes holding annual elections for vice chair and providing different council members the opportunity to facilitate dialogue and present to the Board’s Student Affairs Committee.

In CSEAC’s first 2022-2023 meeting (September 24), members will build rapport and engage in an activity to identify their top Board’s Strategic Plan priorities, which will help determine a schedule of dialogue topics for the coming year.

After receiving feedback that the CSEAC's meeting schedule and topics of conversation did not always appropriately accommodate technical college students, OCHE identified two ways to ensure technical college students' perspectives on topics relating to equity and safety are recognized:

1. The technical college student Board member will attend CSEAC meetings when available to gain insight and lend opinions.
2. The technical college student Board member will facilitate two 90-minute virtual focus groups during their term of service. OCHE will work with faculty and staff at all eight USHE technical colleges to help recruit up to 16 students per focus group. Students will be financially compensated for their time.

Ensuring Visibility, Accountability, and Stakeholder Engagement

We have purposefully and meaningfully engaged campus, student, staff, and community stakeholders who may be affected by this potential course of action by:

- Enlisting the help of faculty and staff in recruiting CSEAC applicants and technical college focus group participants
- Creating space for students to voice their opinions and thoughts on issues of safety and equity that impact them and their peers

CSEAC intervenes in existing educational disparities and closes attainment gaps by shedding light on the experiences of marginalized populations and identifying actionable steps to provide a more equitable postsecondary experience for Utah students. Following each CSEAC meeting, OCHE staff code meeting transcripts and create a meeting report to quantify, prioritize, and categorize the qualitative feedback shared in the meeting. At the end of each semester, OCHE also delivers a report to CSEAC members outlining what the Board and institutions are doing to address safety and equity, recommendations for how the Board can act on the council's feedback, and plans for how OCHE will relay the council's feedback to institutions.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is an information item only; no action is required.