



**DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD AT THE MARCH BOARD MEETING**

**Utah Board of Higher Education  
Utah System of Higher Education  
Friday, December 1, 2023**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES**

**Board Members Present**

Amanda Covington, Chair  
Steve Neeleman, Vice Chair  
Javier Chávez, Jr.  
Jon Cox  
Sharon Eubank  
Danny Ipson  
Tina Marriott Larson  
Aaron Skonnard  
Cydni Tetro

**Board Members Absent**

**Office of the Commissioner**

Geoff Landward, Interim Commissioner  
Nate Talley, Deputy Commissioner and CFO  
Taylor Adams, Associate Commissioner of Student Affairs  
Kris Coles, Assistant Commissioner for Student Affairs  
Russ Galt, Senior Assistant Commissioner for Tech Education Finance  
Richard Gonzales, Assistant Commissioner for Access  
Jared Haines, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner  
Julie Hartley, Associate Commissioner of Academic Education  
Vic Hockett, Associate Commissioner of Talent Ready Utah  
Jeff Johnson, Data Privacy Analyst  
Carrie Mayne, Chief Economist  
Loreen Olney, Administrative Assistant  
David Pulsipher, Senior Assistant Commissioner  
Brian Shuppy, Senior Assistant Commissioner for Budget and Planning  
Melissa Van Hien, Office Manager / Executive Assistant to the Commissioner  
Kim Ziebarth, Associate Commissioner of Technical Education

**Institutional Presidents Present**

Mindy Benson, Southern Utah University  
Darin Brush, Davis Technical College  
Chad Campbell, Bridgerland Technical College  
Elizabeth Cantwell, Utah State University  
Clay Christensen, Mountainland Technical College  
Paul Hacking, Tooele Technical College  
Denece Huftalin, Salt Lake Community College  
Stacey McIff, Snow College

Brad Mortensen, Weber State University  
Jordan Rushton, Dixie Technical College  
Jim Taggart, Ogden-Weber Technical College  
Astrid Tuminez, Utah Valley University  
Aaron Weight, Uintah Basin Technical College  
Richard Williams, Utah Tech University  
Brennan Wood, Southwest Technical College

**Other Guests**

Cathy Anderson, Chief Financial Officer, University of Utah

Louisa Hunsaker, NCHEMS  
Mitzi Montoya, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Utah  
Marlo Oates, State Treasurer  
Brian Prescott, NCHEMS

Vice Chair Neeleman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

## **Committee of the Whole**

### *Institutional Highlights*

President Huftalin shared initiatives between Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) and the University of Utah (UU). An open house for the Herriman campus was held in August 2023. She thanked former University of Utah President Ruth Watkins for her help in moving this forward. SLCC will have 13 academic pathways in fields that are high-yield/high-demand. Currently, three bachelor's degrees are available. Students save \$12,000 on their bachelor's degree by starting at SLCC and completing through the UU.

UU Senior Vice President Mitzi Montoya shared a new partnership with SLCC, which guarantees admissions through the pathway program. If denied at the UU, they can meet certain criteria through SLCC. Then, they are guaranteed back to the UU when they complete without additional admissions. Thirty-five students are currently in the program, but they are working to make it open to all students.

This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Community College Study*

Brian Prescott and Louisa Hunsaker from NCHEMS presented the Community College Study. They reviewed the goals of the study and analyzed current community college services. They visited all institutions except the UU. They produced two reports covering many topics. The key findings included:

- Access varied by student characteristics and location within the state.
- Enrollment increases have been concentrated among young students (in high school and recent grads).
- Enrollment has decreased sharply among students aged 25 and older.
- USHE institutions will need to enroll more students aged 25+ and Hispanic/Latinx students in the future.
- Some students pay university prices for community college-level education at dual-mission institutions.

There was a discussion amongst the Board members and presidents regarding costs and Concurrent Enrollment.

The following recommendations were given:

Community college service:

- Set baseline expectations, reconsider appropriate oversight for adult education.
- Take a leadership role in improving the delivery of developmental education.
- Create standards around certificates and associate degrees.

Access and affordability:

- Ensure residents of rural areas of Utah have the access they need.
- Adopt a 3-tier tuition structure.
- Analyze the impact of tuition waivers and the opportunity scholarship in more detail.

- Boast priority of statewide efforts to recruit adults and underrepresented student populations to address mismatches in awards vs. employer demand for talent.

Efficiency and other:

- Incentivize collaboration among institutions.
- Add clarity to institutions' missions and roles.
- Collect additional data that will be useful for future research and accountability.

Recommendations for the legislature:

- Review and modify state financial aid to better support students seeking community college or tech-ed.

Institution's appropriations:

- Provide for greater flexibility in the use of state funds.
- Review funding requirements in light of changes in tuition policies.
- Align funding with costs for workforce-oriented programming and with costs for providing adequate support to targeted student populations.
- Add incentives for part-time students' success to the performance funding policy.
- Develop a more responsive way to create needed capacity, especially at the tech colleges.

The group continued to discuss Concurrent Enrollment and the recommendations that came from the study. President McIff will chair the committee to work through the study and recommendations.

This is an information item only; no action was taken.

*Legislative Affairs*

Interim Commissioner Landward provided an update on what is anticipated for the upcoming legislative session. This is an information item only; no action was taken.

*November 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting Follow-Up Items*

*Admissions Application*

Board member Tetro provided an update on the Admissions Application Task Force. **Board Member Tetro moved to eliminate application fees for 2024 for all USHE institutions for in-state students beginning in January. Board member Skonnard seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Sub-120 Bachelor's Degrees - Internal Process Review*

Julie Hartley presented the Sub-120 Bachelor's Degrees. She provided credit standards for associate and bachelor degrees, which the accrediting agency determines. Currently, across the US, the state bachelor's degrees must be 125 credit hours or higher (4 years); it also defines a bachelor's as at least four years, but not more than five years. They only authorized pilot programs for the BYU Pathways Worldwide program for international students. They are not eligible for financial aid. The accreditor is not taking additional programs at this time.

We don't know much about how shortened bachelor's degrees will be perceived. We don't know the impact on community colleges within our system. We don't know what graduate programs will accept students. We don't know the impact on institutional reputation.

There are multiple options the Board can consider, including:

- Take time to study the issues and to let the accrediting agency decide if they will allow it.

- Keep shortened degrees as certificates.
- Lower the credit limit for bachelor's degrees and grant approval authority to the trustees.

There was a discussion amongst the group regarding the impacts of these degrees. Board member Skonnard will lead a workgroup for further research. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

#### *Program Alignment Revisions*

Kim Ziebarth presented the program alignment revision. The intent was to align tech colleges across the state. The Board asked for specific criteria. The presidents are asking for minimum education required for employment or as defined by a regulatory body. They also ask for flexibility for unique regional needs and allowance for justified exceptions. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

#### *Corrections Council Report*

Jared Haines presented the Corrections Council Report. The following recommendations were made to the Board:

##### Budget Structure:

- Appropriate funds directly to institutions.
- Move student payments from UDC to institutions.
- Consider alternatives to the Prison Telephone Surcharge Account.
- Establish accountability to institutions for education and UDU for access.
- Programming/Enrollment Guidance - advise institutions and UDC to deploy higher education in accordance with Higher Education Programming in UDC Facilities.

##### County Jails:

- Move and keep students at the program of interest.
- Fill and stabilize programs before expanding to other facilities.
- Deploy at county jails only if resources, facilities, and a sustainable number of students are available.
- Extend courses optimal.

##### Student Advisement:

- Sufficient number of institution programs and the facility population.
- Consistent and integrated with main campus advisement.
- Financial aid, admission, academic preparation, retention, support, surveys, and transition after release.
- Funded by the institution's prison education budget.

**Chair Covington made a motion that the Board of Higher Education adopt the Higher Education and Corrections Council's four recommendations outlined in the Council's 2023 report as the Board's position on each issue to inform legislation, policy, and practices related to higher education in correctional facilities. Board member Skonnard seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

#### Free Speech Resolution

Interim Commissioner Landward presented the free speech resolution and reviewed several principles. **Board Member Cox motioned to adopt the Resolution Establishing Expectations for Implementing Principles of Free Expression on Campus. Board member Ipson seconded**

**the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. Chair Covington was not present for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

*Endowment Report-Out and Policy Approvals*

Nate Talley introduced the item and provided an overview as outlined in the agenda materials. MEMCO then presented as outlined in the agenda materials. Nate provided information on the endowment budget. Board member Chavez, Jr. asked about investment risk. **Board Member Eubank made a motion to approve the Utah Office of State Treasurer Higher Education Student Success Endowment Investment Policy Statement, Board Policy R1100, Higher Education Student Success Endowment, endowment financial records, investments, and expenditures as of published dates in corresponding materials, and the proposed FY 2024 and Fy 2025 budget endowment estimates. Board member Larson seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*University of Utah Baseball Facilities Approval*

Nate Talley provided background for the request and the policy process. He noted there has yet to be community consensus on this issue and read a letter from the community. Cathy Anderson said the University had several open meetings and has explored other options. This site is the most beneficial when looking at various options. Donated dollars, not statefunded will pay for this. **Board Member Ipson made a motion to approve the University of Utah's construction of the new baseball stadium on the site of the current practice field and refer to DFCM for final approval. Board member Tetro seconded the motion. Chair Covington abstained from the discussion and vote due to a professional conflict. All other Board members in attendances voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.**

*University of Utah Biomedical Polymers Research Building Renovation*

Nate Talley provided background as detailed in the agenda materials. **Chair Covington made a motion to approve the University of Utah's remodel of the Biomedical Polymers Research Building and refer to DFCM for final approval. Board member Larson seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*University of Utah 310 Wakara Way Renovation*

Nate Talley provided background as detailed in the agenda materials. **Vice Chair Neeleman made a motion to approve the University of Utah's remodel of 310 Wakara Way for the Department of Family and Preventative Medicine and refer to DFCM for final approval. Board member Ipson seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*University of Utah Myriad Genetics Facility*

Nate Talley provided background as detailed in the agenda materials. **Board member Eubank made a motion to: approve the University of Utah's purchase of the Myriad Genetics buildings 1, 11, and 111 subject to the appraisal and purchase price requirements of Board Policy R703-4; approve the University of Utah's purchase of Myriad Genetic building V subject to the appraisal and purchase price requirements of Board Policy R703-4; and approve the University of Utah's lease of the Myriad Genetics building VI under Board Policy R705. Board member Larson seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

### *Academic Policy Updates*

Julie Hartley provided a breakdown of the changes being made to policies as outlined in the agenda. Changes to Board Policy R470 are the result of a legislative audit. The amendments cut the range of credit requirements from 39 to 27-30, clean up areas where general education requirements were not transferring well, and define responsibilities of faculty General Education curricular committees. Also, the amendments move curricular essential learning outcomes into an appendix to facilitate faculty updates.

Board Policy R471 moves language from the old R470 to the new R471. This still needs a lot of conversation and there will be more substantial changes later. These amendments allow for meaningful course-by-course or program-to-program transfer from tech colleges. The amendments also provide guidance on lower-division majors. Finally, the amendments recognize the USHE Transfer Council, created by a Board resolution in 2019, and reflect national changes in acknowledgement of accrediting bodies.

The only change to Board Policy R475 is the use of common course numbers in agreed-upon lower-division majors.

**Vice Chair Neeleman motioned to approve Board Policies R470, R471, R475, and the Appendix to Board Policy R470 and further moved to rescind Board Policy R473. Board member Ipson seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

### *Data Privacy Items*

Jeff Johnson presented as outlined in the agenda. The action required is to adopt the proposed Board policies defining a significant data breach and establishing standards for using student data by third-party contractors. **Board Member Skonnard motioned to adopt proposed Board Policy R1010, Data Breaches, and proposed Board Policy R1011, Contractor Standards for Use of Personally Identifiable Student Data by Third-Party Contractors. Board member Eubank seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

### *Consent Calendar*

**Board Member Eubank motioned to approve the Consent Calendar. Chair Covington seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

Chair Covington and Interim Commissioner Landward expressed their thoughts and appreciation to the Board members.

**Vice Chair Neeleman moved to adjourn. Board member Eubank seconded the motion. The Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

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Geoffrey Landward, Secretary

Date Approved: