

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE NECESSITY AND VALUE OF USHE CAMPUS
POLICE INDEPENDENCE IN INVESTIGATIONS OF ALLEGED CRIMINAL
CONDUCT**

WHEREAS, Utah System of Higher Education campus police departments provide important law enforcement and public safety services to their respective campus communities; and

WHEREAS, the Utah Board of Higher Education is committed to protecting the independence of the police departments so they can carry out law enforcement criminal investigations unfettered by interference from the campus administration or others at their respective institutions; and

WHEREAS, the act of campus police seeking relevant institutional support during an investigation, such as interpretation from offices of General Counsel, does not constitute interference in the investigation of alleged criminal conduct; and

WHEREAS, state law requirements (including, but not limited to, safety coordination, risk management, and civil liability) or federal law requirements (including, but not limited to, Title IX and the Clery Act) do not constitute interference in the investigation of alleged criminal conduct; and

WHEREAS, the senior financial officer, senior business officer, and others in the campus administration provide budgetary, administrative, human resources and other support and direction to the police department. In these and other cases, it is not interference for the campus administration to provide support and direction to the campus police department; and

WHEREAS, the campus police department must be empowered to fulfill their professional and legal obligations free from retaliation from the campus at which they are employed;

THEREFORE, the Utah Board of Higher Education affirms the necessity and value of the campus police department's independence in investigations of alleged criminal conduct by students or institutional employees. The Board encourages institutions within the Utah System of Higher Education to review, revise, or adopt institutional policies that protect campus police departments from interference and retaliation when conducting criminal law enforcement investigations. The Board also encourages USHE institutions to ensure campus police departments have formal mechanisms to report concerns if they believe such interference or retaliation has occurred.

Dated this 1st day of December 2023.


Amanda Covington, Chair
Utah Board of Higher Education




Geoffrey T. Landward
Interim Commissioner of Higher
Education