



Utah System of Technical Colleges
Board of Trustees Meeting
Via Conference Call
February 7, 2020 – 7:30 am to 8:00 am
310 So. Main St. #1250, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

MINUTES

Board of Trustees Members Present:

Steve Moore, Chair – Ogden-Weber Technical College
Aaron Osmond, Vice-Chair – Information Technology
Mike Angus – Uintah Basin Technical College
Jera L. Bailey – Healthcare
Brett Barton – Life Sciences
Stacey K. Bettridge – Transportation
Charles Hansen – Tooele Technical College
Michael Jensen – Davis Technical College
Susan Johnson – Manufacturing
Arthur E. Newell – Mountainland Technical College
Brad Tanner – Non-Union Trade
Chuck Taylor – Southwest Technical College
Scott Theurer – Bridgerland Technical College
Stephen Wade – Dixie Technical College

Trustees Absent/Excused:

Jera L. Bailey – Healthcare
Susan Johnson – Manufacturing
Russell Lamoreaux – Union Trade

UTech Administration:

Jared Haines – Interim Commissioner of Technical Education
Kim Ziebarth – Associate Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs
Zachary Barrus - Assistant Commissioner for Data and Institutional Research
Tyler Brinkerhoff – Assistant Commissioner for Planning, Finance and Facilities
Eric Petersen – Legal Counsel

College Presidents Present:

Paul Hacking, Tooele Technical College
Kelle Stephens, Dixie Technical College
Clay Christensen, Mountainland Technical College
Tyler Call for Jim Taggart, Ogden-Weber Technical College
Brennan Wood, Southwest Technical College
Aaron Weight, Uintah Basin Technical College

MINUTES OF MEETING

UTAH SYSTEM OF TECHNICAL COLLEGES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 7, 2020

A. Call to Order and welcome by Chair Steve Moore

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 am

Roll call conducted by Chair Steve Moore:

Steve Moore, Chair – yes

Aaron Osmond, Vice-Chair – yes

Mike Angus – yes

Brett Barton – yes

Stacey Bettridge – yes

Charles Hansen – yes

Michael Jensen – yes

Arthur E. Newell – yes

Brad Tanner – yes

Chuck Taylor – yes

Scott Theurer – yes

Stephen Wade – yes

Trustees absent/excused:

Jera L. Bailey – absent

Susan Johnson – excused

Russell Lamoreaux – absent

B. Update on Board Vision: Statewide Technical Education Coordination:

Chair Moore indicated that the Board Leadership would like to update trustees regarding the several meetings the board leadership has had with other constituents and turned the time to Vice-Chair Osmond.

Vice-Chair Osmond reminded trustees that in the last board meeting, the board leadership received the direction and approval from the trustees to move forward with the board vision with the understanding that it was not a final document. At the board meeting, the board leadership was charged to seek support and engagement from the USBE and USHE to have a shared unified vision for technical education in the state. Therefore, the vision has been slightly refined with some important language changes. Both groups provided feedback summarized in two key areas:

1. Focus on technical education. The inclusion of a full scope of career and technical education. For example, it could lead to misunderstandings around *careers* for engineering paths in the degree-granting institutions or the teacher certification path from the K12 system. The board leadership agreed to put their

focus on our initiatives by leveraging the words technical education as a primary focus.

2. **Statewide Program Criteria.** What did we mean by it? We refined it by focusing on statewide program eligibility criteria. In other words, what kind of programs would be eligible under technical education definition consistently across all three systems?

Vice-Chair Osmond also reported that both the USHE and USBE leadership boards are concerned about presenting these concepts to their boards and then to the legislature this late in the year. They believe that the idea of a statewide advisory council is necessary. Chairs Simmons and Huntsman believe that it will take another year and until the next legislative session to obtain buy-in from their boards.

Also, the USBE board needs a deeper understanding of the problems and solutions that would require statutory change.

To reply to the USBE regarding the existing problems/solutions, Chair Moore reported that the board leadership has been meeting with UTech college presidents to obtain feedback to the following five questions:

1. Where are the duplications of efforts or certificates, if any?
2. Examples of good collaboration with local school districts and universities
3. Examples of lack of collaboration with local school districts and universities.
4. What are the obstacles when coordinating CTE with USHE/USBE institutions?
5. If a Statewide Employer Advisory Council would be in place, how can it help the above situations?

Commissioner Haines reported that USHE/USBE boards are supportive of the idea of creating an Industry Statewide Council if the Bill passes.

C. Higher Education Governance Bill. Chair Moore stated that the Board Leadership has been attending all the Higher Education Strategic Planning Commission meetings. The NCHEMS recommended a governance change.

Commissioner Haines pointed out the outline of the provisions of the Bill, which include:

- The Bill will create the Utah Board of Higher Education, which will consist of the USHE and UTech sixteen current institutions.
- The Board Regents would be the Utah Board of Higher Education (for legal reasons).
- Many of the regents have expressed their preference for the retention of the name “Regents,” but they also suggested the decision should be left to the upcoming board to consider.
- The Bill establishes eighteen board members: Sixteen board members and two students. The students will represent academic and technical institutions.

The Governor with Senate consent, will appoint the board members. There is a broad provision for criteria and diversity, but in large, it will be at the discretion of the Governor.

- Nominations for the board will come from a Nominating Committee that will consist of two house appointees, two senate appointees, and three governor appointees. The governor appointees must have technical education, technical college background, and academic institutional background.
- Grant the governor the authority to appoint the inaugural board or transitional board. The governor will appoint them without the Nominating Committee but in consultation with the current leadership of the two boards. For the inaugural board, the governor must appoint a minimum of six members from each current board, a total of twelve given the governor's discretion for four.
- A list of powers and duties.
- Defines and clarifies the terms career of technical education, academic education, certificate, and degree-granting institutions with roles and missions of the institutions.
- Eliminates references to non-credit.
- It creates two board committees for technical and academic education.
- Creates and Industry Advisory Council.
- Directs the two boards to develop a position description of the commissioners' position and to submit one or two names. The new board would make the selection effective July 1st.
- The new governance creates two Associate Commissioners positions for technical and academic education, appointed by the commissioner with the approval of the board.
- We still need clarity on certificates roles for technical institutions (eight UTech colleges and the other three USHE colleges)
- The new board shall operate and maintain separate budgets (for academic and technical education) with the respective submissions to the legislation.

Chair Moore stated that the board leadership has been involved in every meeting to protect the role and the mission of technical education and that the board leadership is pleased and satisfied with the results of the Bill. The Bill is in its final draft and will be presented to the legislation next week. As soon as the Bill is ready, it will be available to the trustees.

D. Higher Education Strategic Workgroups. Chair Moore informed that if the Bill passes, the NCHEMS recommended three workgroups as follows:

- Statewide goals for the two systems – members:
- Define affordability throughout the state (mostly for the USHE institution) – members:
- Transition group: Commissioner Haines as chair, Commissioner Haines said that two presidents would also be part of these workgroups.

Discussion/comments from Trustees:

- A trustee mentioned that he is totally against a governance change. Chair Moore said that as the NCHEMS was presented to the Higher Education Strategic Planning Commission, they suggested a need for governance change for the benefit of the students and, consequently, for the benefit of the employers.
- Technical Education has been working better than ever, and there is a concern about losing that.
- Since the Bill has been created, UTech has been well represented statutorily.
- During the last board meeting, we discussed it, and there is a concern about the type of change. Perhaps this is being orchestrated at a higher level. When we hear the positions of Chancellor and Commissioner, would it be a national search for these positions?
- There will be a job description for the commissioner's position. The description will be written jointly by the two boards, and by statute, a national search will be required to find the best candidate.
- There is also a concern about the cost and redundancy of having these positions and too many roles.
- In many respects, this a solution in search of a problem in terms of a governance issue. We'll need to be able to hire the best candidate who will be able to understand both sides.
- The commissioner position will report to the governing board.
- Commissioner Haines said, "I don't want to discount the concerns, but we should look at opportunities to move the needle of education, promote, improve and increase what we are doing in the technical colleges. We have clarity of missions and the opportunity to have the entire state engaged in what we do. We have the experience and the ability to provide leadership."
- Vice-Chair Osmond noted that in every meeting, they have expressed the great concern from the trustees and that the board leadership does not represent a unified board. He continued by saying that the same sentiment has been expressed from the USHE side. Vice-Chair Osmond also noted that he is encouraged by the potential and the opportunity to influence and control technical education as a unified higher education system and bring all the knowledge and success that we have and take it to the next level and that statutorily all the elements are there.
- What would happen five years from now when Senator Millner is not driving this? How would the new governance help UTech?
- Chair Moore indicated that these discussions started a year ago and that the board leadership kept everyone up to speed in each of the board meetings. He continued by saying that the board leadership also had concerns, but he is feeling better and better about the potential betterment of the system for the benefit of the students. The board leadership is working on the structure and the foundation now, and if something changes down the road, when personnel change, who has control over it? But we would be protected statutorily going forward. There are opportunities to continue the going stronger through collaboration among the systems.

- A concise list of the benefits this would bring to UTech was requested. -We say that collaboration would be better, but what are the outcomes that would make it better than what we have today?
Chair Moore indicated that the board leadership would send a list of the potential benefits of the new governance if the Bill goes through.
When the Bill is ready, would it be possible to hold a board meeting to talk about it, review it, and make sure that we support it?
- Vice-Chair Osmond said that the board leadership represents the will of the board, and if after reviewing the Bill, the board is not supportive, they will communicate it to the committee on behalf of the board.
- Overall it could be good, and there are no guarantees as there could be problems down the road, but that also could happen in what we are doing now.

Chair Moore expressed his appreciation to the trustees for their time, effort, and feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 am