



Utah System of Technical Colleges
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 13, 2020 – 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
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
Jera L. Bailey – Healthcare
Arthur E. Newell – Mountainland Technical College
Brad Tanner – Non-Union Trade
Scott Theurer – Bridgerland Technical College

By Conference Call:

Mike Angus – Uintah Basin Technical College
Charles Hansen – Tooele Technical College
Susan Johnson – Manufacturing
Chuck Taylor – Southwest Technical College

Trustees Absent/Excused:

Brett Barton – Life Sciences
Stacey K. Bettridge – Transportation
Michael Jensen – Davis Technical College
Russell Lamoreaux – Union Trade
Stephen Wade – Dixie Technical College

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

College Presidents Present/by conference call:

Chad Campbell, Bridgerland Technical College
Paul Hacking, Tooele Technical College
Darin Brush, Davis Technical College (by conference call)
Kelle Stephens, Dixie Technical College
Clay Christensen, Mountainland Technical College
Jim Taggart, Ogden-Weber Technical College
Brennan Wood, Southwest Technical College
Aaron Weight, Uintah Basin Technical College

Special Guests:

Speaker Brad Wilson
Senator Ann Millner

MINUTES OF MEETING

UTAH SYSTEM OF TECHNICAL COLLEGES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 13, 2020

A. Call to Order and welcome by Chair Steve Moore

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 am

Roll call conducted by Chair Steve Moore:

Steve Moore, Chair – yes

Aaron Osmond, Vice-Chair – yes

Mike Angus – yes (by conference call)

Jera L. Bailey – yes

Charles Hansen – yes (by conference call)

Susan Johnson – (joined later by conference call)

Arthur E. Newell – yes

Brad Tanner – yes

Chuck Taylor – yes (by conference call)

Scott Theurer – yes

Trustees absent/excused:

Brett Barton

Stacey Bettridge

Michael Jensen

Russell Lamoreaux

Stephen Wade

B. Chair Moore mentioned that during a previous board meeting, board members had a question regarding the governance bill: What problem is the governance bill solving? Commissioner Haines, Chair Moore, Vice-Chair Osmond, and Associate Commissioner Ziebarth put together a 2-page document to address the question (attached to today's agenda). [The 2-page document](#) and Bill S.B.111 were sent this morning to all trustees and presidents for their review (attached to the agenda). Chair Moore reviewed the part of the document, "What problem is this bill solving?"

- Chair Moore mentioned that he wished the rest of the trustees could have had the opportunity to participate in all the meetings related to the bill that the board leadership attended with Senator Millner, Speaker Wilson, and the Regents' Leadership to experience the dialog, the environment, conversations, and discussions.

Chair Moore has been impressed with the dedication to the students of the people that serve in the education systems and the legislators.

Chair Moore noted that [Bill S.B.111](#) came about from the NCHEMS report and recommendations, which all had the opportunity to read. *It moves us from the perception of what is best for the institution to what is best for the students.*

- Commissioner Haines reviewed the “Impetus” (background).
- Chair Moore mentioned that some of the concerns are:
 - Are we going to be swallowed up?
 - Are we going to lose momentum and identity?
- Vice-Chair Osmond reviewed the 2nd page of the document “Specific benefits to technical education,” and highlighted the following:
 - The formation of the new governing board and the transitional board component statutorily requires that six members from each of the two current governing boards will form the new board. The Governor has the freedom to select at his discretion four additional members from either of the two boards or another source.
 - Also, by statute, there will be the establishment of standing committees: A Standing Committee dedicated to technical education, and another committee dedicated to the degree-granting institutions to focus on the unique issues to such institutions.
 - The statute also provides the establishment of a Statewide Advisory Council to give regular feedback to the board regarding program and eligibility criteria, student outcomes; and to reinforce the focus on technical education from the industry perspective.
 - Institutional roles and clarity: missions of each institution and defining what kind of programs, certificates, and degree components we can offer in each institution.
 - It also took away some of the restrictions for approval of programs, allowing some flexibility.
 - It provides for the separation of operating budgets and requests.
 - It provides tuition affordability, especially for technical education.
 - The outcomes for the student are the focus and the high-level intention of the legislation.

Chair Moore asked for any comments or questions:

- New governing board – Designation of business representation: Does the bill clarify or designate a mix of employers in the marketplace?
 - For the characteristics of board members (see S.B. 111, line 2867 “qualifications for board members”).

Senator Millner mentioned that the board needs geographic representation, diversity of business and industry representation, the experience of technical education, and degree-granting institutions.

- Vice-Chair Osmond indicated that a common question or concern from members of the UTech board is what kind of problem are we trying to solve? He then asked Speaker Wilson and Senator Millner to share their perspective:
 - Senator Millner replied: *we need to create seamless statewide pathways and articulation for students with a flexible system across the state. By having everyone under one umbrella (new governing board), we will be able to accomplish it.*

- *By finding ways of working together, we can put the student first, and be more responsive to the workforce needs in the state.*
- Speaker Wilson agreed with Senator Millner's comment and added that *we need to move from institution-centric to student-centric.*
- Chair Moore asked if this would answer the four goals of improvement? Is it easier, better, faster, and cheaper?
- Are the budgets separate in Bill S.B. 111? (UTech and USHE budgets)
 - We will continue to present budgets separately as we are doing it now. The statute *did not* change anything regarding budgets.
 - Speaker Wilson stated that we can clarify the separation of budgets in the statute.
- If Trustees or Presidents have further questions, Speaker Wilson and Senator Millner offered to contact them individually or collectively.
- We need to align the core curriculum among technical colleges and universities (start from industry, technical colleges, and then universities).
- The inaugural board will have equal representation from both systems, which is a good thing, but after the inaugural board how would the voice of technical education continue to be heard?
 - Trustee Johnson said that the members of the [new] board need to see themselves as representatives of the citizens of the state of Utah, rather than the system of Higher Ed or the System of Technical Colleges. The idea behind this is to create a streamlined educational system that creates pathways and stackable credentials from certificates to degrees to serve the needs of the students.
 - Senator Millner noted that ideally, they would want everyone to be focused on a strong higher education system working with high schools, Custom Fit, entry-level job training, etc. Having representation in the inaugural board allows us to make sure that we have policies responsive to everyone's needs. We also want to make sure that we have a robust list of candidates to replace people, so we are thinking of having a nominating committee appointed by the governor. They would like colleges to submit names to the committee.
- When we have board meetings, we are meeting for 3 to 5 hours discussing technical education. How do we go about not losing that focus?
 - Chair Moore stated that there are no guarantees, but having been to several Regents' board meetings, in his opinion, 30 to 50% of the meetings were student-centric and the other 1/2 was about the institution. He believes that the focus can also be transferred over as we go forward.
 - Vice-Chair Osmond mentioned that this had been a key topic in their conversations. Subcommittees are statutorily established to allow board members to deep dive and focus on particular issues. It is not possible to solve all the issues in a board meeting setting. Also, there is an establishment of an Industry Advisory Council to work and make recommendations to the board.

- Vice-Chair Osmond noted that although it is not in the statute, the board leadership needs to define a job description for the future commissioner and the two associate commissioners. The selection process also needs to be rigorous to ensure that we have the best possible candidate for that role.
- Commissioner Haines explained that the bill would go to the Senate floor, then to the House. The board leadership will add comments and suggestions that were discussed today. If there are other issues, please send them to Commissioner Haines and Kim Ziebarth.
- Associate Commissioner Ziebarth mentioned three areas that will be beneficial:
 1. Previously we were prohibited from offering credit.
 2. Common currency.? Right now, it's going through federal rulemaking that will impact us.
 3. We are forbidden from duplicating technical education course work. Some higher education institutions are duplicating what we are offering in technical colleges.

- Trustees thanked the board leadership for this meeting. There are some areas of concern, but trustees are feeling better; the goals and the intention are pointing in the right direction for the state, the students, and the employers.

- Chair Moore asked if there were any other comments or questions, and if not, he requested a motion to adjourn. He also mentioned that if anyone needs an appointment with Speaker Wilson or Senator Millner to let the board leadership know to arrange a meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion: Vice-Chair Aaron Osmond moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded: Trustee Jera L. Bailey

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm