

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

Tuesday, July 22, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Room 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

President Wayne L. Niederhauser, Senate Chair
Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart, House Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Aaron Osmond
Sen. Stuart C. Reid
Sen. Howard H. Stephenson
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Bradley G. Last

Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig

Members Absent:

Rep. Keith Grover

Staff Present:

Ms. Tiffany A. Stanley, Policy Analyst
Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Angela Oakes Stallings, Associate General
Counsel
Ms. Debra Hale, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Task Force Business

Chair Lockhart called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m.

MOTION: Pres. Niederhauser moved to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2014, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Osmond, Sen Urquhart, and Rep. Gibson were absent for the vote.

2. State Government Finance

Mr. R. Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, distributed and explained "Revenue Generated from Incremental Tax Changes" and "Appropriations History: State Education Funds." He briefed the task force on the fiscal impact of making incremental changes to various taxes and historical trends in state funding of higher education. Mr. Leishman and Dr. Andrea Wilko, Chief Economist, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, responded to questions from the task force.

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The task force recessed to view demonstrations on how educational technology can be used in classrooms to personalize learning.

3. Utah College of Applied Technology Funding and Governance

Mr. Tom Bingham, Chair, Board of Trustees, Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT), referring to a UCAT handout and visual presentation, addressed equity funding for regional college campuses. He outlined conceptual criteria the board may use as it prepares its 2016 legislative budget request, including funding based on service region population, membership hours, and student head count.

Mr. Rob Brems, President, Utah College of Applied Technology, reviewed a visual presentation showing that high school student enrollment and membership hours at UCAT have declined since 2009. He reviewed statutes regarding UCAT's role and responsibility for delivering career and technical education

to high school students and recent news articles on employer demand for skilled workers. Referring to whether school district representatives on regional campus boards should be voting or advisory members, Mr. Brems said that he surveyed all regional campuses, and they indicated that public education representatives on their boards are supportive and cooperative and that votes are usually unanimous.

Ms. Mary Shumway, State Director, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Utah State Office of Education, distributed a handout, "Career and Technical Education – Giving Students the Edge," and described CTE provided by school districts. She described challenges related to CTE and made the following recommendations:

- 1) focus on policy and create a strategic plan;
- 2) create a task force and contract with an external evaluator to conduct a performance audit to review and make recommendations on the roles and responsibilities of the various entities involved in CTE, desired outcomes of CTE, and the use of public resources for CTE; and
- 3) create a marketing plan for CTE.

Referring to whether school district representatives on regional campus boards should be voting or advisory members, Ms. Shumway said that she surveyed school district career and technical education directors, and her sense is that the directors would prefer not to change the governance of regional campus boards, but they need more time to discuss the issue.

Sen. Stephenson requested that the task force examine the possibility of two options related to evaluating CTE in Utah:

- 1) contracting with an external evaluator, such as the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce; and
- 2) commissioning a legislative audit.

Chair Lockhart requested that staff draft a letter to the Legislative Audit Subcommittee to request the audit, which may be considered and adopted by the task force at a later meeting. President Niederhauser noted that both of Sen. Stephenson's options would likely not be ready to be presented to the task force within the interim and requested that representatives of public education, higher education, and UCAT pull together data on costs per certificate, to the extent possible, to present to the task force at a later meeting.

Chair Lockhart relinquished the chair to Pres. Niederhauser.

4. Higher Education Funding

Sen. Urquhart briefly prefaced new concepts for funding higher education, which will be discussed in greater detail at a later meeting. He introduced the following ideas:

- 1) providing a certain level of performance-based funding for the steps that lead to completion, with possible bonus funding for specific circumstances;
- 2) ensuring adequate baseline funding;
- 3) requiring higher education to maintain an even balance between tuition revenues and state revenues; and
- 4) dedicating a certain percentage of baseline funding for research purposes.

5. Developing Effective School Principals

This agenda item was postponed to a future meeting.

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6. Other Task Force Business/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Jones, Sen. Stephenson, and Rep. Last were absent for the vote.

Chair Niederhauser adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.