

(Draft – Awaiting Formal Approval)
**MINUTES OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**
Room 210 East Senate Building, State Capitol Complex
February 3, 2015

Members Present: Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Co-Chair
Rep. Keith Grover, Co-Chair
Rep. Jon E. Stanard, House Vice Chair
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Ann Millner
Sen. Aaron Osmond
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Kim Coleman
Rep. Fred C. Cox
Rep. Jon Cox
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Daniel McCay
Rep. Kay L. McIff
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Staff Present: Mr. Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Manager
Ms. Angela Oh, Economist/Statistician
Ms. Lorna Wells, Secretary

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

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Urquhart called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

2. Utah Medical Education Council (UMEC)

Mr. Ric Campbell explained the composition of the UMEC. He explained the public/private partnership and benefits. He said that medical students need an additional 3 – 7 years of hospital resident training and the collaboration that takes place to match medical students with workforce needs. He said that UMEC is considered as a model for other states and discussed the Rural Rotation Pilot program. He explained the 2013 addition of the Nursing Workforce Information Center for the State. <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2015/pdf/00000770.pdf>

Co-chair Urquhart welcomed the student body president, Jeff Herting, from Southern Utah University (SUU) and the presidential ambassadors.

3. UCAT Base Budget

Ms. Oh demonstrated how to find the UCAT Base Budget bill, Items 50 – 58 on H.B. 1 and how they link to COBI. http://www.le.utah.gov/lfa/reports/cobi2015/agcy_405.htm She explained that the UCAT base budget is \$73 million and that the largest piece, about 65 percent, is from the Education Fund. She explained that high school students do not pay a fee, but adult students pay tuition. She stated that the first tier is set at \$1.75 per membership hour and the second tier is varied slightly at different campuses, up to 25 cents more per membership hour.

Sen. Stephenson asked for clarification why certain campuses have different hourly rates and how this relates to the proposed equity funding.

Rob Brems, UCAT President, explained that these tuition increases are approved by the UCAT Board of Trustees and the Campus Board of Directors for different reasons including equity, employer advising groups, demand for programs, etc. He stated that Bridgerland (BATC), Southwest (SWATC), and Tooele (TATC) are operating at \$1.75; Ogden (OWATC) are at \$1.80 and Davis (DATC), Dixie (DXATC), Mountainland (MATC) and Uintah Basin (UBATC) are at \$2.00 per hour. He will explain this in more depth during the budget presentation.

Co-Chair Urquhart asked that each campus explain why they have the differential amount.

Rep. Ipson commented that all campuses aren't equal and that expenses aren't all the same. He stated that the USHE institutions also have different tuition rates.

Ms. Oh showed how to drill down in COBI to each of the UCAT campuses.

4. UCAT Performance Measures

a. Membership Hours. Ms. Oh discussed membership hours at each of the UCAT campuses. <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2015/pdf/00000767.pdf> She explained that the charts show high school students and adult students.

Co-Chair Urquhart noticed some increases in secondary students and asked campus presidents to indicate measures that they have taken to achieve these increases.

b. Student Headcount. Ms. Oh said this Issue Brief shows the system-wide headcount at each institution for high school students and adult students. It counts all students who are attending courses, no matter how many hours per week they attend. <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2015/pdf/00000772.pdf>

c. Certificates Awarded. Mr. Oh reported that in FY 2014, there were 6,971 program certificates awarded at UCAT campuses. <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2015/pdf/00000775.pdf> She mentioned that all of the campuses have articulation agreements in certain programs with regional USHE institutions, where 30 credit hours can be granted at a USHE institution towards graduation when a student has completed over 900 hours at a UCAT Campus.

d. Outcomes on Accredited Programs. Ms. Oh said that each program is reviewed by the Council of Educational Occupation (COE). <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2015/pdf/00000777.pdf> Each program must have 60 percent completion, 70 percent placement; and 70 percent licensure in order to maintain accreditation standards.

Co-Chair Urquhart asked how the standards are set. Pres. Brems answered that the standards are set by COE and approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

Ms. Oh reported that the campuses are exceeding the minimum standards in most cases. She said that Page 10 of the Issue Brief shows the programs that fell below a benchmark. She explained that when this happens, the campus has to determine a resolution and create an improvement plan.

Rep. Fred Cox asked what happens when a campus is triggered for being below a standard. He also asked if discontinued programs are ever brought back.

Pres. Brems said that programs can be closed for a while and then reinstated or retooled. They are all under constant review and that campus presidents are very sensitive to employer's needs. Accreditation is now done at the program level instead of the campus level.

e. Custom Fit. Ms. Oh explained the Custom Fit program offered on UCAT campuses and the SLCC campus. <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2015/pdf/00000779.pdf> She said that this is specialized training for Utah employers in various regions to upgrade the skills of current employees. Over 81 percent of the training at UCAT (93 percent at SLCC) is between 0 and 25 hours.

Rep. McIff commented that one of the strengths of the Custom Fit program is the ability to adjust and adapt.

5. UCAT Campus Presentations

Pres. Brems explained the mission of the Utah College of Applied Technology regarding high school students and adult students. <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2015/pdf/00000798.pdf> He indicated that there are eight UCAT campuses. He said they do not issue credit, but students must demonstrate mastery of individual competencies. They are measured by clock hour. He discussed the organization and governance chart showing the UCAT Board of Trustees and the campus Board of Directors.

Pres. Brems stated that there are 389 programs and 151 Employer Advisory Committees system-wide. He discussed the history of UCAT tuition, and that the tuition differential will be clarified at a future meeting. He explained how calculations are made to determine completion rates for four different types of students: certificate seeking; occupational upgrade, other post-secondary (basic skills, job re-entry, personal interest, senior citizen, incarcerated), and secondary.

Pres. Brems discussed the stringent accreditation requirements required by the COE. He said

that all accredited program must meet these standards or they are triggered for heightened monitoring. He reported on the five programs that were triggered in 2014.

a. Brennan Wood, SWATC Campus President reported on the program-specific plan to improve completion and placement in the phlebotomy program. He explained the curriculum revisions and other changes that were made to improve the completion rate in the medical assistant program.

b. Clay Christensen, MATC Campus President discussed the FY 2015 equity/capacity implementation including instructional support improvements, equipment upgrades, student services improvements, and institutional infrastructure expansion. He discussed several new programs being offered. He explained that the increase in tuition was a decision made over three board meetings and was necessary because they were spread so thin in some areas.

Sen. Stephenson appreciated the explanation and understood the rationale for the 25 cent differential. He asked the committee to consider if the allocation of resources to UCAT is imprecise and needs to be handled differently.

c. Michael Bouwhuis, DATC Campus President reported on the success of the new plastic injection molding program at DATC which meets the needs of several companies in the area. He stated that they received money for campus equity, faculty and staff upgrades, adjustments, and training. They added benefits for their student advisor and three new instructors. He reported that some of the factors for the increased tuition at DATC is to fund the higher-cost programs which require expensive equipment. He noted that fees were reduced to create an offset for the student.

d. Collette Mercier, OWATC Campus President discussed the enhanced articulated pathways with Ogden and Weber School Districts and the pathway to Weber State University. She gave some specific examples of programs with these pathways from high school to OWATC and then to Weber State University. She reported that they have had a 10 percent increase in high school enrollment because of these articulation measures.

Sen. Stephenson asked if the lack of tuition funding for high school students impacts their ability to outreach to more high school students because they need some adult students to help pay for the costs of running the programs.

Pres. Brems said that the OWATC is an example of when the high school outreach is working. He stated that it takes a great deal of balancing and strategy by the campus presidents to deal with all of these pieces of the puzzle.

Pres. Mercier said that it is critical to strengthen the relationship with the area high schools to develop collaborative efforts in order to be efficient.

Sen. Stephenson asked how they budget for high school students when they don't know enrollments ahead of time. Pres. Mercier explained that they estimate as best as they can.

Sen. Stephenson reported that the education task force has asked for an audit to find out where there is sufficient coordination between secondary education, UCAT and USHE. He is looking forward to results of these findings. Pres. Brems mentioned that this audit will provide better answers to Sen. Stephenson's question.

e. Scott Snelson, TATC Campus President reported on the positive partnership with Utah State University with BATC, TATC, and UBATC. He discussed some of the specific articulated programs. He stated that there is great collaboration and that there is a USU representative in Tooele. They make sure all efforts are coordinated and articulated. The faculty meet with employers to determine for industry needs.

f. Richard Maughan, BATC Campus President reported that secondary student enrollment has increased by 32.9 percent in FY 2014. He stated that BATC serves 4 districts and 12 area high schools. He said that area high schools have begun sending seniors who have completed their graduation requirements to BATC for a full day. He reported on the STEM Grant-Partnership and the Robotics STEM Academy. They broadcast from BATC at 7:00 a.m. to seven locations at region high schools. Pres. Maughan indicated that they have attempted to keep tuition at 1.75 per hour because even small increases in tuition may make the difference in having someone complete. They have developed great partnerships with industry to provide equipment and materials.

g. Kelle Stephens, DXATC Campus President Industry was in St. George for a prior commitment. Pres. Brems mentioned that she was working to get some campus funding for a permanent campus. She was joined by Superintendent Larry Bergeson and they participated in the meeting via telephone. She reported on the partnership with industry, the Washington School District, DXATC and Dixie State University. She explained the AM/STEM program where high school students come to DXATC in the morning from 7:00 to 9:30 and then go to high school. This has been very successful and will probably expand into other areas. Superintendent Bergeson reported on the successful coordination that is taking place.

Co-Chair Urquhart congratulated each of the partners on the success of this program and the coordination with industry, high schools, DXATC, and DSU. He mentioned that it is exciting that it is coming from industry. He asked about the attrition rates.

Pres. Stephens said that there has been no attrition, all of the students are arriving at 7:00 a.m. and excited to be there.

Rep. Ipson commented on the incredible collaboration as well as the tremendous support from the community.

h. Aaron Weight, UBATC Campus President reported that the sudden tremendous drop in gas prices has had significant impact on the Uintah Basin because of their ties to the oil and gas industry. They have had to deal with budget adjustments, faculty retention, enrollment decreases and industry connectivity. They are certain oil and gas prices will increase again, and are doing everything they can to make the required adjustments in the meantime.

Pres. Brems summarized the mission of UCAT and the importance of being industry responsive with open entry/open exit programs.

Co-Chair Urquhart asked all committee members to look at the requested two-percent budget cuts for higher education. The committee can decide to ask the presidents to make the two-percent cut, but that may be abdicating the responsibility of the committee.

Rep. Fred Cox mentioned that in 2011 the institutions had to deal with a seven percent budget cut. It will be interesting to see what cuts higher education would propose.

Sen. Jerry Stevenson said the EAC is trying to determine what cuts and realignments can be made. It becomes a series of "What If" questions. Institutions need to take a hard look at marginal programs. They need to seriously work through the reallocation.

Co-Chair Urquhart wanted committee members to determine if they should have a more active hand in the COBI process. They should look at the analysts' recommendations and make some decisions.

Sen. Millner recommended that campus and institution presidents be allowed to determine where cuts should be made. She wanted the committee to be cautious of unintended consequences from these actions.

Co-Chair Urquhart stated that this has often been the practice because the presidents have done well in the past at making these cuts. However, sometimes fresh eyes may find something else that could be considered.

MOTION: Sen. Dabakis moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Urquhart adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Co-Chair

Rep. Keith Grover, Co-Chair