



# MINUTES

## HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, February 7, 2019 | 8:00 a.m. | 445 State Capitol

### Members Present:

Rep. Michael K. McKell, House Chair  
Sen. Deidre M. Henderson  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Sen. Karen Mayne  
Sen. Ann Millner  
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson  
Sen. Evan J. Vickers  
Rep. Melissa G. Ballard  
Rep. Jon Hawkins  
Rep. Kelly B. Miles  
Rep. Rex P. Shipp

Rep. Mark A. Strong  
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

### Members Absent:

Sen. Keith Grover, Senate Chair  
Rep. Susan Duckworth, House Vice Chair  
Rep. John Knotwell

### Staff Present:

Ms. Lorna Wells, Session Secretary  
Ms. Emily Willis, Financial Analyst  
Mr. Sean C. Faherty, Fiscal Analyst

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

House Chair McKell called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

## 1 . Higher Education Strategic Planning Commission Update

Mr. Brian Prescott, Vice President, The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) gave a report on their recent study.

### [2a-NCHEMS Utah Higher Ed Strategic Planning Commission Update Presentation](#)

Chair McKell asked if there is a correlation between the different governing bodies. VP Prescott responded.

Chair McKell asked if there were any other states who had pushed the program approval down to the Board of Trustees level. VP Prescott responded.

VP Prescott continued with his report.

Rep. Hawkins asked for clarification about WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education). VP Prescott responded.

Sen. Millner commented about last year's legislation regarding long-term planning.

Sen. Mayne discussed occupational and educational needs in the Price area of the state. VP Prescott responded.

Sen. Mayne asked about if the needs of minority populations are being met. VP Prescott responded.

Sen. Hillyard gave his perspective as past chair of WICHE. He discussed his knowledge of the higher education system in Colorado. He discussed some issues with the governance in Utah.

## 2 . Approval of Minutes

**MOTION:** Rep. Hawkins moved to approve the minutes of February 1, 2019. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 7.

Yeas-9

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. J. Hawkins  
Sen. D. Henderson  
Sen. L. Hillyard  
Rep. M. McKell  
Rep. K. Miles  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. M. Strong  
Rep. M. Wheatley

Nays-0Absent-7

Rep. S. Duckworth  
Sen. K. Grover  
Rep. J. Knotwell  
Sen. K. Mayne  
Sen. A. Millner  
Sen. J. Stevenson  
Sen. E. Vickers

Rep. Ballard appreciated the regional perspective. She asked about the effectiveness of differing governing bodies. VP Prescott responded.

Chair McKell mentioned some unique aspects of having community colleges under the same umbrella as universities. He asked if other states have a dual system model. VP Prescott responded.

VP Prescott mentioned long-range planning and gave his contact information.

### **3 . Higher Education System Governance**

Mr. Kade Minchey, Audit Manager, introduced Mr. Benn Buys, Audit Supervisor, and Mr. August Lehman, Audit Staff. Mr. Minchey introduced the Higher Education Governance Report.

Mr. Buys discussed current Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) governance practices.

#### [3a-OLAG Higher Education Governance Presentation](#)

#### [3b-OLAG Report on Higher Education Governance ? Audit Report](#)

Chair McKell asked about the mission of universities being overseen by the Board of Regents and the programs being approved by the Board of Trustees. Mr. Lehman reported.

Chair McKell discussed performance funding when the metrics change every year. Mr. Lehman discussed the essential need for more consistent metrics.

Chair McKell asked about the recommendations regarding training. Mr. Byers responded.

Rep. Ballard thanked Mr. Minchey for the very thorough audit. She mentioned the challenge of not having seamless transferrability. Mr. Lehman responded.

Rep. Wheatley asked who provides training for the trustees. Mr. Buys responded.

Chair McKell asked about the coordinating and governing boards for other states.

Rep. Ballard mentioned the changes made in 2017 and the impact of these changes. Mr. Buys and Mr. Lehman responded. She then asked some follow-up questions.

Mr. David Buhler, Commissioner, USHE gave his observations and response to the audit report.

Mr. Harris Simmons, Chair, Board of Regents, discussed his perspective on the audit.

Comm. Buhler mentioned that program approval is tracked by the Board of Regents. They can provide this information to committee members.

Chair McKell mentioned the need for a statewide system. He mentioned the great value of collaboration at all levels.

Chair McKell discussed the great value to students for more transferability of credits.

Rep. Ballard discussed the statewide engineering programs, the continued need to streamline programs and processes in all of higher education, and to understand the vision of tuition moving forward.

Sen. Hillyard mentioned the impact of Western Governor's University. He discussed some ways to increase efficiency.

Comm. Buhler mentioned the target market for Western Governor's University. Comm. Buhler discussed the tremendous increase in online course offerings. He also discussed some of Rep. Ballard's comments.

Rep. Miles asked if there was something from the audit that the committee should focus on. Comm. Buhler discussed the responsibilities of the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees.

Regent Simmons discussed the programming issue and the difficulties of having Boards of Trustees and the Board of Regents.

#### **4 . Strategic Workforce Initiative Update and Proposals**

Mr. Sean Faherty, Fiscal Analyst gave a background to the Strategic Workforce Intitatives.

##### [4a-Strategic Workforce Initiatives Background](#)

Rep. Miles recognized visitors from Weber State University.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hawkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 8.

Yeas-8

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. J. Hawkins  
Sen. D. Henderson  
Rep. M. McKell  
Rep. K. Miles  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. M. Strong  
Rep. M. Wheatley

Nays-0

Absent-8

Rep. S. Duckworth  
Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. L. Hillyard  
Rep. J. Knotwell  
Sen. K. Mayne  
Sen. A. Millner  
Sen. J. Stevenson  
Sen. E. Vickers

Chair McKell adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.