



# MINUTES

## HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, February 6, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. | 445 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Keith Grover, Senate Chair  
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. Candice B. Pierucci  
Rep. Rex P. Shipp  
Rep. Mark A. Strong  
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Susan Duckworth, House Vice Chair

**Staff Present:**

Sean C. Faherty, Finance Officer  
Ben Leishman, Finance Manager  
Lorna Wells, Committee Secretary

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).

Chair McKell called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

### 1. Utah Regional and Dual Mission Universities Presentation

David Woolstenhulme, Interim Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education, briefly discussed the role of the three dual mission institutions.

#### [2a. Regional and Dual Mission Universities \[USHE\]](#)

David Woolstenhulme gave a brief overview about Weber State University (WSU).

David Woolstenhulme gave a brief overview about Southern Utah University (SUU).

David Woolstenhulme gave a brief overview about Dixie State University (DSU).

David Woolstenhulme gave a brief overview about Utah Valley University (UVU).

David Woolstenhulme mentioned the collaboration between the USHE institutions and the technical colleges.

Chair McKell asked a question about the differences in the percentage of the state support. He also asked about tuition at each institution. David Woolstenhulme responded.

Rep. Ballard was very impressed with the data and metrics presented. She asked if students who transfer to other institutions are included in retention statistics. David Woolstenhulme responded.

Rep. Ballard also discussed more program partnerships from larger institutions to the smaller institutions. David Woolstenhulme responded.

Sen. Hillyard asked for more information about the Governor's request for no tuition increases. David Woolstenhulme responded.

Chair McKell mentioned that the agenda will be moved around slightly because of the inclement weather.

## **2 . Utah Valley University Presentation**

Astrid Tuminez, President, UVU gave a presentation about UVU.

### [3a.Utah Valley University Presentation \[UVU\]](#)

Chair McKell asked a question regarding the growth funding request as it relates to the percentage of state funding. Pres. Tuminez and Rep. Val Peterson, Vice President of Finance & Administration responded.

Chair McKell asked about the goal of 45 percent completion. Pres. Tuminez responded.

Rep. Pierucci appreciated Pres. Tuminez's leadership. She mentioned her experience at UVU and the unique mission and role.

Cameron Martin, Vice President University Relations, gave additional information regarding the percentage of state funding question by Chair McKell.

## **3 . Dixie State University Presentation**

Richard Williams, President, DSU gave a presentation about DSU.

### [4a.Dixie State University Presentation \[DSU\]](#)

Sen. Mayne asked how Dixie State is addressing mental health issues. Pres. Williams will respond to this during the presentation.

Chair McKell asked for clarification regarding the 19% statistic. Pres. Williams responded and continued his presentation.

Rep. Ballard asked about additional resources for the student center. She also asked about bottleneck classes. Pres. Williams responded.

Chair McKell discussed his recent visit to Dixie State.

## **4 . Southern Utah University Presentation**

Chair McKell mentioned that Fred Adams, founder of the Utah Shakespeare Festival, passed away earlier today.

Scott Wyatt, President Southern Utah University (SUU), commented on the great legacy of Fred Adams.

Rep. Ballard stated that while in high school she lived in England. She mentioned how well Fred Adams was known and respected there.

Pres. Wyatt reported on SUU's affiliation with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Pres. Wyatt gave a presentation about SUU with the assistance of Donna Law, Executive Director of Development and Government Relations, and Marvin Dodge, Vice President for Finance & Administration.

### [6a.Southern Utah University Presentation \[SUU\]](#)

Chair McKell asked if the credits awarded to students when they come to SUU from a technical college were transferrable to other USHE institutions. Pres. Wyatt responded and continued his presentation.

Chair McKell asked a question about the low student loan debt. Pres. Wyatt responded.

Rep. Shipp commended Pres. Wyatt for his great leadership.

### **5 . Weber State University Presentation**

Brad Mortensen, President, WSU, gave a presentation about WSU.

Diego Higueros discussed his experiences at Northern Utah Academy of Math, Engineering and Science (NUAMES) and WSU.

Pres. Mortensen discussed the NUAMES partnership and then continued his presentation.

Elaine Cope, WSU 2017 graduate, who now works at Northrup Grumman as a Manufacturing Engineer discussed her experience at WSU.

Pres. Mortensen continued his presentation.

Char McKell asked a question about current completion rates and future goals. Pres. Mortensen responded.

Rep. Miles mentioned some of his experiences when his father taught at WSU. He appreciated the work Pres. Mortensen is doing to improve completion rates. He also praised the Dream Weber program. Pres. Mortensen responded.

Rep. Pierucci asked a question about the digital fluency initiative. Pres. Mortensen responded.

Chair McKell asked some questions about WSU's strategic plan. Pres. Mortensen responded.

**MOTION:** Rep. Strong moved to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2020 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 6.

Yeas-10

Sen. K. Grover  
Sen. L. Hillyard  
Rep. M. McKell  
Rep. K. Miles  
Sen. A. Millner  
Rep. C. Pierucci  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. M. Strong  
Sen. E. Vickers  
Rep. M. Wheatley

Nays-0

Absent-6

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. S. Duckworth  
Rep. J. Hawkins  
Sen. D. Henderson  
Sen. K. Mayne  
Sen. J. Stevenson

### **6 . RFA - Systems Engineering Program**

Rep. Waldrip explained this funding request.

Ben Hart, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development gave more information about this funding request.

#### [7a.RFA Systems Engineering Program](#)

Randy Sylvester, Senior Technical Fellow, L3Harris Technologies, gave an industry perspective regarding this funding request.

Rep. Wheatley asked about the starting wage for engineers. Rep. Waldrip responded.

**7 . RFA - Education Administrator Financial Management Certificate Scholarships**

Sen. Vickers explained this funding request.

[8a.RFA Education Administrator Financial Management](#)

Tony Pellegrini, Director, Graduate Studies in Education, SUU, gave more information regarding this funding request.

Sen. Vickers concluded his presentation regarding this funding request.

Rep. Miles asked when this program could begin. Tony Pellegrini responded.

**MOTION:** Rep. Strong moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 6.

Yeas-10

Rep. M. Ballard  
Sen. K. Grover  
Rep. M. McKell  
Rep. K. Miles  
Sen. A. Millner  
Rep. C. Pierucci  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. M. Strong  
Sen. E. Vickers  
Rep. M. Wheatley

Nays-0

Absent-6

Rep. S. Duckworth  
Rep. J. Hawkins  
Sen. D. Henderson  
Sen. L. Hillyard  
Sen. K. Mayne  
Sen. J. Stevenson

Chair McKell adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.