



UTAH STATE

LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. | 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Keith Grover, Senate Chair
Rep. Michael K. McKell, House Chair
Rep. Susan Duckworth, House Vice Chair
Sen. Deidre M. Henderson
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Ann Millner
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Rep. Melissa G. Ballard
Rep. Kelly B. Miles
Rep. Candice B. Pierucci
Rep. Rex P. Shipp

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

Members Absent:

Sen. Karen Mayne
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Jon Hawkins

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.

Chair Grover called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

1. Strategic Workforce Investment Programs

Seán Faherty gave an overview about the Strategic Workforce Initiative (SWI) review process.

Ben Hart, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) discussed the role of GOED with Talent Ready Utah.

Kimberlee Carlile, Director of Talent Initiatives, GOED, gave a brief history of some of the SWI initiatives.

Ben Hart discussed the aerospace pathways program.

Rep. Duckworth assumed the chair.

Kimberlee Carlile discussed the requirements of the SWI proposals and reviewed the 2020 SWI Recommendations.

SWI Presentation from GOED

[2a-2020 General Session SWI Ranking and Funding](#)

Ben Hart gave a summary of the SWI requests.

Chair Duckworth expressed appreciation of the vision from GOED.

Sen. Millner suggested that some regional visits would be very helpful to Legislators. She also appreciated Talent Ready Utah's support of this collaborative effort. She also gave appreciation to committee members who reviewed and scored the proposals.

Chair Duckworth asked committee members to let the chairs to know if they were interested in a field trip to visit the programs that have received SWI funding.

Rep. Ballard expressed appreciation for the streamlined efforts of Talent Ready Utah. Ben Hart responded and thanked Kimberlee Carlile for her hard work.

2 . Resolution of USTAR

Seán Faherty briefly discussed the 2019 legislation which moved USTAR operations to GOED.

Ruth Watkins, President, University of Utah (U of U) discussed the resolution of USTAR. She gave some background information about the USTAR Center for Genetic Discovery. She introduced Andy Weyrich, Vice President for Research (U of U).

[Growing Utah's Economy USTAR Center for Genetic Discovery](#)

Noelle Cockett, President, Utah State University discussed her early involvement with USTAR. She also discussed the time frame involved in moving from research to product and job development. She discussed the role of entrepreneurship in economic development.

Sen. Millner thanked the presidents of both research institutions. She discussed the unwinding of USTAR. She discussed the great need for development of innovative talent.

Pres. Watkins discussed some of the talented individuals who came to the U of U because of USTAR. She mentioned the great success of USTAR.

Sen. Millner stated that it had been over 20 years since the first engineering initiative was funded and that the state is reaping the benefits of that today. It is important to have long-term innovation.

Sen. Hillyard commended both presidents. He commented on the 20-year process of funding the engineering initiative programs.

Chair Duckworth expressed appreciation to the presidents for their great leadership.

3 . Entrepreneurship on Campus

Seán Faherty discussed the LFA staff's opportunity to visit campuses. After those visits, they asked individuals to come to the subcommittee to discuss entrepreneurship.

Dixie State University (DSU)

Richard Williams, President, DSU briefly introduced the Atwood Innovation Plaza.

Michael Lacourse, Provost, DSU gave an overview about the current programs at the Atwood Innovation Plaza at DSU.

[4a-Entrepreneurship on Campus - DSU Presentation](#)

Sen. Millner asked where DSU will be in five years. Michael Lacourse responded.

Salt Lake Community College (SLCC)

Clifton Sanders, Provost, Academic Affairs, Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) gave an overview regarding entrepreneurship and the Miller Business Resource Center at SLCC.

Beth Colosimo, Executive Director, Miller Business Resource Center discussed the entrepreneurship program at SLCC..

[4b-Entrepreneurship on Campus - SLCC Presentation](#)[Miller Business Resource Center Impact Report July 2018-June2019.pdf](#)

Rep. Wheatley thanked Beth Colosimo for their good work. He asked about if there were waiting lists to participate in the program. Beth Colosimo responded.

Chair Duckworth mentioned that the demographic seemed to be meeting the targets.

4 . Custom Fit Program

Seán Faherty gave a brief overview about the Custom Fit program.

Tyler Brinkerhoff, Assistant Commissioner for Planning, Finance and Facilities introduced the Custom Fit Program for UTECH.

[5a-UTech Custom Fit Presentation](#)

Scott Theurer, UTECH Board of Trustees discussed the Custom Fit Program.

Christi Snow, Custom Fit Director at Ogden-Weber Tech, discussed the Custom Fit Program at Ogden-Weber.

Tyler Brinkerhoff mentioned SLCC's participation in the Custom Fit Program. He showed a video depicting the industry perspective of Custom Fit. He mentioned that Custom Fit is for individuals who are already employed.

Scott Theurer gave some concluding remarks about the Custom Fit program.

Rep. Shipp asked about the lack of training programs in Southeastern Utah. Tyler Brinkerhoff responded.

Sen. Hillyard discussed the partnership between Ogden-Weber Tech and Proctor & Gamble in Brigham City. He asked if the funding is statutory. Tyler Brinkerhoff responded.

Rep. Miles commended UTECH for their work. He asked if new employers are being contacted. Christi Snow responded.

5 . Performance Audit of the University Neuropsychiatric Institute and Crisis Services

Seán Faherty indicated that the presentation is an update to the audit done in 2019. He explained the meeting materials regarding the audit.

[6a-Performance Audit of the University Neuropsychiatric Institute and Crisis Services](#)[6e-Issue Brief - 2020 General Session - Proposed SafeUT Funding Reallocations](#)

Ross VanVranken, Executive Director of UNI gave an update presentation about the compliance with the audit.

[6b-Legislative Response - UNI Crisis Services 2020 Presentation](#)[6c-SafeUT Legislative Summary 2019](#)[6d-UNI Crisis Services 2019 Year Data](#)

Sen. Hillyard mentioned the presentation given in Public Education Subcommittee. He spoke in strong support of this program.

Rachel Lucynski, Business Operations Manager, UNI Crisis Programs, responded.

6 . Request for Appropriation - SELECT/Aspire

Sen. David G. Buxton explained the SELECT/Aspire Request for Appropriation.

Regan Zane, Professor, Utah State University with the assistance of Wayne Niederhauser, former Utah Senate President, explained this funding request regarding electricifying transportation systems.

[Miller Business Resource Center Impact Report July 2018-June2019.pdf](#)

[7a-RFA - SELECT-ASPIRE - Request for Appropriation Back-up Materials](#)

Rep. Ballard encouraged some collaboration with other partners in this initiative in the state. Regan Zane responded.

Sen. Millner is supportive of this technology but asked questions about the three-year budget request. Regan Zane responded.

7 . Request for Appropriation - Research Center for Medical Isotopes

Sen. David Hinkins gave an overview about this funding request.

[8a-RFA - Research Center for Medical Isotopes - Request for Appropriation Back-up Materials](#)

Matthew J. Memmott explained the need for this funding request and discussed the medical isotope technology.

Lynn Sitterud, Emery County Commissioner spoke in favor of this funding request.

Chair Duckworth asked if this request was part of the Governor's Budget. Sen. Hinkins responded.

Rep. Strong asked if this technology only involved the medical side or if the power generated was included. Dr. Memmott and Sen. Hinkins responded.

Sen. Millner asked if the budget request is for one-time money. Sen. Hinkins responded.

8 . Request for Appropriation - Expansion of Research Studying the Brain Effects of Cannabinoids

Sen. Daniel Hemmert explained this research program with the assistance of Zach Robins, Holistic Research and Education Foundation.

[9a-RFA - Expansion of Research Studying the Brain Effects of Cannabinoids - Request for Appropriation Back-up Materials](#)

Jeff Anderson, Physician Scientist, explained the research taking place right now for treatment of disease with medical cannabinoids.

9 . Request for Appropriation - 2020 Vice Presidential Debate

Sen. Todd Weiler explained this funding request with the assistance of Jason Perry, Vice President for Government Relations and the Director of the Hinckley Institute of Politics, and Wayne Niederhauser, Co-Chair Debate Commission and former Utah State Senate President.

[10a-RFA - 2020 Vice Presidential Debate - Request for Appropriation Back-up Materials](#)

Rep. Miles asked what would happen if this is not funded. Jason Perry responded.

10 . Request for Appropriation - Center for the School of the Future

Sen. Hillyard explained this funding request.

[Center for the School of the Future](#)

Parker Fawson, Director, of Center for the School of the Future gave more information about this funding request with the assistance of David Forbush Assistant Director.

11 . Request for Appropriation - Behavioral Health Workforce Reinvestment

Sen. Henderson gave an overview of this funding request.

Patrick Fleming, Chair of USAFE explained this funding request with the assistance of Adam Cohen, Executive Director of Odyssey House.

[12a-RFA - Behavioral Health Workforce Reinvestment - Request for Appropriation Back-up Materials](#)

[Behavioral Health Workforce Reinvestment Initiative](#)

Patrick Fleming introduced other individuals in the audience and concluded his presentation.

Sen. Henderson gave a summary regarding the budget request.

12 . Request for Appropriation - Funding for Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Rep. Casey Snider explained this funding request and discussed the partnership with Utah State University.

[13a-RFA - Funding for Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory - Request for Appropriation Back-up Materials](#)

Sen. Hillyard asked a question about testing of blood on race horses. Rep. McKell responded.

13 . Request for Appropriation - Utah Center for Community Planning

Sen. Scott Sandall explained this funding request.

[14a-RFA - Utah Center for Community Planning - Overview Doc - Request for Appropriation Back-up Materials](#)

Steve Styler, Utah Governor's Rural Partnership Board explained this funding request.

Michael Clay, Professor of Urban Planning at Brigham Young University, discussed the need for this funding request.

Rep. McKell asked how BYU funded this program. Michael Clay responded.

Rep. Miles spoke in favor of this funding request. Sen. Sandall summarized this funding request.

14 . Request for Appropriation - Mental Health Services

Sen. Daniel Thatcher explained this funding request.

[16a-RFA - Mental Health Services - Request for Appropriation Back-up Materials](#)

Rep. McKell asked where the funding would go. Sen. Thatcher responded.

15 . Request for Appropriation - Mental Health Service Providers Training Investment

Sen. Grover explained this funding request with the assistance of Jason Castillo, faculty member, University of Utah.

Jason Castillo, faculty member, U of U explained this funding request.

Rep. Miles discussed the mental health crisis in Utah. He asked why this funding request is more unique than the other similar funding requests. Jason Castillo responded.

MOTION: Rep. McKell moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 9.

Yeas-7

- Rep. S. Duckworth
- Sen. K. Grover
- Rep. M. McKell
- Rep. K. Miles
- Rep. C. Pierucci
- Rep. R. Shipp
- Rep. M. Wheatley

Nays-0

Absent-9

- Rep. M. Ballard
- Rep. J. Hawkins
- Sen. D. Henderson
- Sen. L. Hillyard
- Sen. K. Mayne
- Sen. A. Millner
- Sen. J. Stevenson
- Rep. M. Strong
- Sen. E. Vickers

Chair Duckworth adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.