



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

May 18, 2023

Academic Education Committee Report

The Academic Education Committee met on April 13, 2023, under the leadership of Committee Chair Stan Albrecht and again on May 12, 2023, and is now forwarding several action items to the full Board of Higher Education for consideration in its May 18 meeting:

Updates to Policies R312 and R315

Board Member Hope Eccles and Associate Commissioner Julie Hartley presented recommendations from the Institutional Roles and Missions Task Force on needed updates to Policies R312 and R315, especially to include technical colleges in the policies on institutional roles and geographic service regions. The Committee discussed the task force recommendations with institutional presidents or their delegates and asked the Office of the Commissioner to draft updates to both policies based on the discussion. The Technical Education Committee held a discussion later in the day. On May 12, the Academic Education Committee reviewed the drafts the Office of the Commissioner created and voted to forward them to the full board for review and approval.

Lifting the Moratorium on Out-of-Role Program Approvals

In July 2022, the Board placed a moratorium on out-of-role program approvals and asked the Academic Education Committee to strengthen the principles guiding the Board's consideration of out-of-role program requests. During the April meeting, the Committee asked the Office of the Commissioner to update the section of Policy R401 defining guiding principles of the out-of-role program approval process. It asked for strengthened emphasis on regional workforce demand and labor market needs and evaluation of the institution's fulfillment of its primary institutional role in Board considerations of out-of-role program requests. On May 12, the Committee approved the draft to Section 7 of R401 and voted to forward it to the full board for review and approval.

Research Priority for the Strategic Plan

The Committee also continued its earlier discussions about possible objectives and tactics for a Research Priority to be included in the Board's strategic plan. Based on the discussions with institutional representatives in the February and April meetings, the Committee asked the Commissioner's Office to draft a Strategy outline for the Board's consideration and to pay particular attention to the variation in research responsibility based on institutional role. The Committee reviewed the draft on May 12, and voted to forward it to the full board for review and incorporation into the Board's strategic plan.

Policy R310 Systemwide Vision and Mission

Board Member Hope Eccles brought to the Committee's attention the need to update Policy R310, Systemwide Vision and Mission, which outlines the priorities, vision, and mission of the Board of Higher Education and the Utah System of Higher Education. The Committee voted to forward a recommendation to the Board to prioritize updating Policy R310 and to set a timeline for doing so.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is an information item only; no action is required