



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

March 24, 2023

## Student Affairs Committee Report

The following is a summary of the Student Affairs Committee meeting on February 16, 2023:

### **Access**

Assistant Commissioner Kris Coles gave the committee an update on the simplified admissions process. Assistant Commissioner Coles will also provide these updates at the March Committee of the Whole meeting.

### **Affordability**

USHE Access Training Coordinator Lisa Molina shared the Train-the-Trainer model she developed that USHE uses to educate college access professionals as they advise students on their postsecondary journey. Lisa discussed how USHE facilitates onboarding and ongoing training for more than 50 college access advisers and how the Commissioner's office works with institutional partners to train over 450 high school counselors and other K-12 educators throughout the academic year. Training topics include college admissions processes, FAFSA, state scholarships, and general college awareness and readiness.

Utah College Advising Corps Director Rachel Everitt provided additional information about how college access advisors are exposed to and trained on each of USHE's sixteen institutions and how they relay that information to the more than 15,000 seniors and their families they meet with during the school year. UCAC leadership is working on gathering data about the program's impact on student yield in USHE institutions.

USHE Chief Economist Carrie Mayne demonstrated how students can use the [Launch my Career](#) tool to research salary data and discover the return on investment of specific postsecondary credentials. USHE State FAFSA Coordinator Dyllen Cafferty provided the committee with updates about changes coming to the FAFSA in the Fall of 2024 slated to improve accessibility and ease of use for students.

Board Member Villanueva and Board Member Gibson summarized feedback from the Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council January meeting on mental health. They discussed challenges students face around basic needs insecurity, built upon feedback CSEAC provided earlier this school year about college affordability. Board Member Villanueva also facilitated a discussion on penalty fees with the help of student and staff guests from Weber State University. Students shared how late fees and other penalties

assessed for outstanding balances owed to their institution impact their ability to afford and complete college. Staff from Weber State spoke about steps they have taken to listen to and address student feedback on this topic.

**Commissioner’s Recommendation**

This is an information item only; no action is required

