

**MINUTES OF THE  
HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

Thursday, June 21, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W125 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Greg Bell, Senate Chair  
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, House Chair  
Sen. Mike Dmitrich  
Sen. Peter Knudson  
Sen. Dennis E. Stowell  
Rep. Ron Bigelow  
Rep. Melvin R. Brown  
Rep. John G. Mathis  
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss  
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart  
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Brent H. Goodfellow

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Allison Nicholson, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, 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).

**1. Task Force Business**

Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Bigelow moved to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Knudson, Rep. Brown, and Rep. Moss were absent for the vote.

**2. Transfer and Articulation**

Mr. David Buhler, Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs, USHE (Utah System of Higher Education), reviewed a report that was mailed to task force members, "Towards Seamless Transfer in Utah Higher Education." He noted that there are now 523 commonly numbered lower division courses within the USHE, which allows credits to be transferred from one institution to another, but the process of facilitating transfers is ongoing. He identified issues currently being addressed by the K-16 Alliance and USHE.

Dr. Cynthia Bioteau, President, Salt Lake Community College, responded to questions regarding articulation and the transferring of credits in receiving an associate's degree. She stated the ability to transfer in Utah is better than in any state she has worked, and emphasized that it is not necessary to get an associate's degree to successfully transfer the credits to a four-year school.

Dr. Bioteau and Dr. David Pershing, Senior Vice President and Provost, University of Utah, gave a slide presentation and discussed issues surrounding articulation and transferability of credits, as well as student migration and participation rates by county, in-state, out-of-state, and international students. A copy of the slide presentation was distributed to staff.

Dr. Bioteau noted that 75 percent of Salt Lake Community College students who have obtained an associate's degree transfer to another school for further education.

Dr. Pershing stated that a majority of the students entering the University of Utah are transfer students. The total number of credits taken by transfer students who complete a bachelor's degree at the University

of Utah is only six more (145 credits) than the number of credits taken by native University of Utah students who complete a bachelor's degree (139 credits).

Sen. Bell said he would like the Task Force to possibly take action, and hear further presentations from the commissioner on advisement.

### **3. Graduation Time Frames**

Ms. Nicholson distributed a copy of her slide presentation "Timely Graduation" and discussed policy implications of the length of time to graduate, proposals to address graduation time frames, and what other states are doing to address this issue.

Dr. Mark Spencer, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Facilities, USHE, explained that Commissioner Kendell was out of town and also introduced Dr. Tony Morgan who was recently appointed to the Board of Regents. Dr. Spencer distributed and reviewed the handouts, "Number of Credit Hours at Graduation" and "USHE Time To Graduation Statistics." He presented an overview on the number of credit hours to graduate with an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree.

Dr. Ray Coward, Provost, USU (Utah State University), stated that only two-thirds of the students entering USU declare a major and half of those who initially declared a major change that major before graduating. He noted efforts by USU to reduce time to graduate, including looking for needs-based scholarships, establishing a child care center, and expanding online course offerings.

### **4. Minority and Low-Income Students**

Dr. David Doty, Assistant Commissioner for Planning and policy, USHE, distributed a Deseret Morning News article, 1-21-06 (A14) "Hands-on help in education." He also distributed and reviewed a handout, "USHE Task Force on Minority and Disadvantaged Students," which outlines recommendations made by the task force to increase the number of minority and disadvantaged students entering and completing higher education. Dr. Doty said the best predictor of higher education completion is taking a rigorous high school course of study. He noted that Utah is ranked low compared to other states in the number of students taking advantage of an enhanced Pell grant targeted to students who have taken a rigorous high school course of study.

Ms. Gwen Anderson, Director, Multicultural Center, UVSC (Utah Valley State College), distributed a handout, "Multicultural Initiatives at Utah Valley State College" and presented a slide presentation on the Multicultural Center. She stated that there are approximately 2,500 minority students at UVSC, and there is a need for more scholarships for minority students.

Ms. Anderson introduced Ms. Chinyere Sam, a 2007 minority graduate from UVSC.

Ms. Sam discussed her experience at UVSC.

### **5. Other Items / Adjourn**

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Sen. Stowell distributed a letter to task force members from Dr. Michael T. Benson, President, SUU (Southern Utah University), that extended an invitation to the Task Force to host a meeting on the SUU campus.

Chair Bell indicated that the next meeting of the Task Force was scheduled for July 19, 2007 but will be rescheduled for July 17, 2007 at 8:00 a.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Moss moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Bell adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.