



DRAFT MINUTES

HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. | 110 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ann Millner, Senate Chair
Rep. Karen M. Peterson, House Chair
Rep. R. Neil Walter, Vice Chair
Sen. Keith Grover
Sen. John D. Johnson
Sen. Kathleen A. Riebe
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Katy Hall
Rep. Jon Hawkins
Rep. Sahara Hayes
Rep. Michael J. Petersen

Rep. Mark A. Strong

Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox

Members Absent:

Sen. Karen Kwan
Sen. Michael K. McKell
Sen. Chris H. Wilson
Rep. Trevor Lee

Staff Present:

Joseph Ryan Fitzgerald, 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.

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Chair Millner called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

2. New Performance Funding Model

Chair Millner gave some background information about the need for a new performance funding model.

Joseph Fitzgerald gave an overview of the new performance funding model.

2a. New Performance Funding Model

2b. Performance Funding Brief

Chair Millner, Rep. Karen Peterson, Rep. Walter, and Sen. Vickers made comments about the new model.

Geoff Landward, Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education, gave the USHE perspective on the proposed measures.

Nate Talley, Deputy Commissioner gave additional information regarding the USHE perspective regarding performance funding.

Chair Millner asked if the Utah Board of Higher Education had additional comments. The Board members in attendance expressed their support.

MOTION: Sen. Johnson moved that the subcommittee support the current direction of the revisions to performance funding and an eventual bill to adopt finalized performance funding metrics. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 8.

Yeas - 9
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. A. Millner
Rep. K. Peterson
Sen. K. Riebe
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. R. Walter

Nays - 0

Absent - 8
Sen. K. Grover
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. K. Kwan
Rep. T. Lee
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. R. Wilcox
Sen. C. Wilson

3. New Enrollment Funding Model

Sen. Millner gave some background information about the new enrollment funding model.

Joseph Fitzgerald gave an overview of the current enrollment funding guidelines and the new enrollment funding model.

[3a. New Enrollment Funding Model](#)

[3b. Enrollment Funding Brief](#)

Chair Millner, Sen. Johnson, Rep. Karen Peterson, and Rep Walter discussed issues related to enrollment, missions, roles, and the new enrollment funding model.

Comm. Landward discussed the USHE perspective regarding the importance of missions and roles in considering enrollment.

Sen. Riebe and Sen. Johnson commented on the need for flexibility and also the importance of staying competitive and relying on the expertise of USHE and the Commissioner's Office.

Chair Millner highlighted the premise of defining statute at a very high policy level.

Sen. Vickers mentioned the importance of access to education for his family.

Nate Talley responded to the comments regarding marginal and direct cost. Comm. Landward discussed ranking and the importance of being cohesive.

Chair Millner gave some closing remarks about the enrollment funding model and asked committee members to indicate any concerns.

4. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Rep. Wilcox moved to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2025 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 11
Sen. K. Grover
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. J. Hawkins
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. A. Millner
Sen. K. Riebe
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 6
Sen. K. Kwan
Rep. T. Lee
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. K. Peterson
Sen. C. Wilson

5. Accountable Budget Process Review and Approval

Joseph Fitzgerald gave an overview of the Accountable Budget Process.

[4a. Higher Education Accountable Budget Process, October 2025](#)

MOTION: Rep. Walter moved to include the 2025 Interim Accountable Process Budget for Higher Education in the 2026 General Session Higher Education Base Budget. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 10
Sen. K. Grover
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. J. Hawkins
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. A. Millner
Sen. K. Riebe
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 7
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Kwan
Rep. T. Lee
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. K. Peterson
Sen. C. Wilson

6. Line Item Performance Measures Review and Approval

Joseph Fitzgerald gave an overview of the Line Item Performance Measures.

[5a. Line Item Performance Measures Presentation](#)

MOTION: Rep. Walter moved to include the proposed line-item performance measures in the 2026 General Session Higher Education Base Budget bill. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 11
Sen. K. Grover
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. J. Hawkins
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. A. Millner
Sen. K. Riebe
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 6
Sen. K. Kwan
Rep. T. Lee
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. K. Peterson
Sen. C. Wilson

7. Nonlapsing Balance Report

Nate Talley discussed the non-lapsing balances report.

[6a. USHE Nonlapsing Balances 2025 Executive Summary](#)

[6b. USHE Nonlapsing Balances 2025 Detail](#)

8. Base Budget Review

Joseph Fitzgerald gave an overview of the Base Budget.

[7a. Higher Education Base Budget Introduction](#)

MOTION: Rep. Walter moved that Under Joint Rule 3-2-101 and 3-2-402, legislative staff be authorized to include in the base budget bill for the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee the following recommendations to the Executive Appropriations Committee: 1. The accountable process budget changes adopted earlier today and in this interim; 2. Ongoing General Fund and Income Tax Fund appropriations defined in the current year's appropriations acts; 3. Federal Fund, Dedicated Credit, and Restricted fund and account amounts that are the lesser of current year ongoing appropriations or agency budget requests; 4. Adjustments to Nonlapsing balances, transfers, and other dependent amounts as calculated; and Line-item performance measures included in FY 2026 appropriations bills with any changes made earlier today and in this interim. In consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Appropriations Subcommittee, staff may make any technical changes necessary, including balancing between the General Fund and Income Tax Fund, if applicable, to balance the overall budget. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 10

Sen. K. Grover
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. J. Hawkins
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. A. Millner
Sen. K. Riebe
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. R. Walter

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Sen. K. Kwan
Rep. T. Lee
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. R. Wilcox
Sen. C. Wilson

MOTION:

Rep. Chair Walter moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 10

Sen. K. Grover
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. J. Hawkins
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. A. Millner
Sen. K. Riebe
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. R. Walter

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Sen. K. Kwan
Rep. T. Lee
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. R. Wilcox
Sen. C. Wilson

Chair Millner adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.