

Utah Higher Education and Corrections Council



Meeting Minutes

Draft 9/27/2022 – pending approval

Wednesday, August 24, 2022, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Utah System of Higher Education, 60 South 400 West, Salt Lake City UT

The Gateway, Office Tower 2, 5th Floor, Large Conference Room

Remote Access via Zoom

Attendance:

Council Members Present: Representative Lowry Snow (co-chair), Senator Derrin Owens (co-chair), Representative Melissa Ballard (ex-officio), Jared Haines, Roxanna Molina, Helen Hanson, Blake Hills (for Carrie Cochran)*, Daniel Powers, Anndrea Parrish, Richard Christiansen*, David Bokovoy, Christopher Hodson

Excused: Grace Acosta

**indicates remote attendance*

1. Call to Order

Representative Snow

Introduction of Chris Hodson and Blake Hills for their first meeting.

Meeting protocol: To help control the discussion and get some work done, we would ask that discussion primarily be limited to Council members except as called on by the Chair. Please address your questions and comments to the chair.

2. Approval of Minutes – July 27, 2022

Representative Snow

The council reviewed the minutes from the July 2022 meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Roxanne Molina, David Bokovoy as a 2nd to the motion. All present voted in favor.

Visit to the new prison facility

(Owens) The chairs and a few Council members visited the new Salt Lake Corrections facility and met with the some of Utah Department of Correction (UDC) corrections administration. They are having some challenges with beginning in a new facility. UDC feels like they are in a crisis right now with a lot of work to do. There was excellent discussion around higher education and was encouraging to have all stakeholders give input. Courses are moving forward and the space is being well utilized. There is interest in another visit at some point.

(Ballard) The collaborative efforts were great. IT and tablets were also discussed. How can we use our resources and spaces effectively? A takeaway from this meeting was that we need everyone to be proactive.

(Eisen) The security team was there to resolve a lot of the issues which was very helpful. We appreciate that all the materials the students need to be successful were also available.

(Bokovoy, SLCC) There were 99 male students admitted yesterday, and anticipate 77 females admitted today. There are between 250 and 300 active students.

3. Meeting Schedule 2022

Representative Snow

Upcoming Council Meetings:

- October 5, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- November 9, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

A motion to approve schedule was made by David Bokovoy, Christopher Hodson as a 2nd to the motion. All present voted in favor.

4. **Review of Statutory Duties**
([HB-226/UCA 53B-35-202](#), [HB-194/UCA 64-13-48](#))

Jared Haines

House bill 226

- Advise and report to Board of Higher Education, Dept of Corrections, Education Interim Committee, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.
- Integration and productive employment upon release.
 - Evidence-based practices
 - Accessibility during incarceration
 - Timely completion of courses, certificates, degrees
 - Accessible, sustainable occupations aligned with workforce demands
 - Cross-institutional coursework
 - Personal and civic-development
 - Innovative course delivery, including technology
 - Data: Enrollment, completion, financial aid, costs, recidivism,

House Bill 194

- Available ASAP with case action plan
- Substantially equivalent opportunities for women and men
- Access to grants, financial aid application
- Continuity with transfers, discipline, lockdown, etc.
- Educational progress records: maintain & transfer to institutions
- Report to HEAS: enrollment, completion, recidivism, transfers, resource recommendations

5. **Review of Issues for Council Vision and Priorities**

Jared Haines

The issues that were circulated after the last meeting and any input received since then have been integrated into the workplan that will be reviewed today.

(Christiansen) One of the issues that stood out at the last meeting was the need to move prisoners because of beds. We need to get the monetary and motivation systems in place. If we can get the financial system aligned then we won't need to move prisoners from one place to another based solely on bed space without taking education into consideration.

(Parrish) There are some mandatory time cuts. We also have staffing shortages and rely on jails to help fit some of the people so that we can continue to be operational and safe. It is a mutually beneficial agreement with the jails.

(Bokovoy) The concern that was brought up was starting a program at one facility and then being moved and not being able to complete the program at the new location.

(Snow) There is currently 1 tablet for 2 inmates. If we can get more resources for each inmate to have a tablet that moves with the inmate, this could help with this problem. Even if the inmate is moved, they can continue their program on their tablet.

(Ballard) There is discussion to work with higher ed to get funding for higher ed counselors. A counselor can help to facilitate their goals, interests and get them in the right programs.

(Eden Cortes) At what point are the belongings that were confiscated released back to the inmate when they are being moved? (Parrish) within 24 hours. We do try not to move an inmate once they are in a program, but sometimes we must due to security reasons. We want to ensure that every move is purposeful.

(Ballard) Request to council members: Make a list of barriers that you see and your goals/recommendations. Then we can bring it back to the group and address each one.

6. **Formulation of Work Plan**

Jared Haines

- Guiding Objective
 - Jared Haines introduced the "Guiding Objective" statement from the Work Plan: "What actions and funding need to be applied for higher education in Corrections facilities to yield the highest likelihood of sustainable employment with the least likelihood of recidivism?"
 - (Hodson) The prison education setting should resemble the education setting of other students at universities.
 - (Bokovoy) Some inmates question what value there is in getting a degree. An AS won't necessarily let you get a job right after obtaining the credential. By engaging in these courses, we see the world differently and develop critical thinking skills. This helps inmates keep the job they get.
 - (Cortes) If we create opportunities similar to the opportunities others outside have, they can start seeing the benefits.
 - (Christiansen) Another important question to ask is, What are we doing that isn't working? Are there things we can stop doing?
 - (Molina) A lot of employers frown upon felons. Pay isn't equal for employers who will hire felons. There is an inability to get a loan with a felony to start a small business.
 - (Cortes) suggestion for Guiding Objective: What actions and funding need to be applied for higher education in Corrections facilities to provide access to educational opportunities beyond

incarceration and yield the highest likelihood of sustainable employment with the least likelihood of recidivism?

- (Bokovoy) Add in families and the impact this has on generations.
- (Snow) The chairs with Jared will revise the objective based on the feedback received today. We will possibly have more than one objective (i.e. one for council, one for inmates, etc)
- Strategic Priorities
 - The long-term “Strategic Priorities” suggested in the Work Plan was reviewed.
 - Long-Term: Find out what we *ought* to be doing (*September/October*)
 - Evidence-Based Practices: Considering national research/literature, what impacts/benefits does higher education have on incarcerated individuals?
 - Lived Experience: Considering experiences of formerly incarcerated individuals, what impacts/benefits does higher education have?
 - Gaps (*November/December*)
 - What gaps exist between the most effective research-based approaches, and current Utah performance and lived experience?
 - What are the actions and costs to close those gaps?
 - Which gaps, actions, and costs will be targeted?
 - Administration and Funding (*2023*)
 - What is the most effective model for administration, roles, and funding?
 - (Ballard) We cannot do this without the data.
 - (Bokovoy) We do not want to overburden a system that is already stretched. We should coordinate and not duplicate efforts.
 - Council members, share some research on best practices at the next meeting.
- Tactical Priorities and Work Group Assignments
 - Jared introduced the approach to “Tactical Priorities” suggested in the Work Plan, and gave a brief overview of the six suggested Work Groups and the kinds of issues they would be asked to review.
 - Short-term: Things needed/desired/achievable this year
 - Assign working groups to identify and recommend priorities and action.
 - A Council member suggested groups need to be 5 people or less, and information should not be shared until it is shared with the entire council first.
 - The chair of each working group will get the group organized and compile recommended priorities. These will be presented to the rest of the council at the November meeting, with any needing more immediate attention at the October meeting.
 - Discussion of potential work group assignments.
 - Research/Data work group: Christopher Hodson suggested to head the working group. Other members, Anndrea Parrish and Eden Cortes.
 - Educational Programming work group: Dan Powers, David Bokovoy, and Julie Hartley or Eden Cortes
 - Funding work group: Anndrea Parrish, Melissa Ballard, Marianne McKnight (SLCC), Tim Sheehan, Christopher Hodson
 - Access/Continuity work group: Dan Powers, Roxanna Molina
 - Instructional technology work group: Lowry Snow, Dr. Bradbury, DTS?, UEN?, Snow college recommendation
 - Industry Engagement work group: Helen Hanson, Talent Ready team, Rich Christiansen

7. Search for Evidence-Based Strategic Practices

- Discussion and assignment of national research/literature for evidence-based strategic priorities to be presented at next meeting, including exemplary state models, as outlined in the Workplan’s Research/Data workgroup.
- Where are inmates? What is the potential for education?
- (Christiansen) Suggestion: look to private industry to provide input on this. There are groups that are having incredible outcomes such as The Other Side Academy, Delani Group, and Hustle 2.0.
- (Cortes) States like CO are doing some great work. The CDOC has been working on increasing access and quality of higher education in prisons. They are collaborating with multiple stakeholders across state agencies, higher education in prison programs, workforce development, etc. It might be worth talking to them.
- Lived experiences: Find 2-3 former incarcerated students to discuss at next meeting what practices worked and didn’t work from their experience.

8. **Future Meeting Agendas**

Representative Snow

- October: Evidence-Based Practices (Researchers); FY24 funding needs (send “punchlists” to Anndrea Parrish); Workgroup recommendations and priorities needing more immediate attention.
- November: Council Report to UBHE, Legislature; Strategic Priority Gaps and Recommendations (Research/Data Workgroup); Tactical Gaps (workgroups) and Recommendations; Budget Recommendations; Policy Recommendations

9. **Public Comment**

10. **Other Business**

11. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was given by Senator Owens and a 2nd was given by Anndrea Parrish.
Adjourned at 11:06 am.