

# Utah Higher Education and Corrections Council



## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, October 5, 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, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Attendance:

Council Members Present: Representative Lowry Snow (co-chair), Senator Derrin Owens (co-chair), Representative Melissa Ballard (ex-officio), Jared Haines, Helen Hanson, Daniel Powers, Anndrea Parrish, Blake Jackson, David Bokovoy, Christopher Hodson, Grace Acosta, Eden Cortes

Council Members Excused: Roxanna Molina, Rich Christiansen, Carrie Cochran

Others Present: Julie Hartley, Tim Sheehan, Blake Jackson, other UDOC representative, Lynn Kvamme\*, Marjorie Cortez\*, Valerie Worrall\*, Andy Eisen\*, Shad Larson\*, Lais Martinez\*, Mark Dockins\*, Richard Gonzalez\*, Juliette Tennert\*

\*indicates remote attendance via Zoom

1. **Call to Order** Senator Owens

2. **Approval of Minutes – August 24, 2022** Senator Owens

(Minutes were attached)

The council reviewed the minutes from the August 2022 meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Representative Snow, Representative Ballard as a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. All present voted in favor.

3. **Adoption of Guiding Objective** Jared Haines

(Work Plan was attached)

Jared Haines reviewed the modified “Guiding Objective” statement in the Work Plan, and further input received since the last meeting, using PowerPoint slides.

Discussion: (Cortes) If recidivism cannot be completely eradicated, changing the language to “reduce” or “help” would more accurately reflect the intentions of the council. (Ballard/Parrish) An updated definition for recidivism is being worked on. Representative Ballard would like to have Parole present at the next meeting with statistics to see a clear picture on what is actually happening to better guide the focus of the council and answer the following questions: Who is completing? Of those who are not completing, what is their background? Does the type of offender weigh in on why they are or aren’t completing?

Modifications were made to the statement in the course of discussion as follows:

- ~~What Recommend actions and funding needed to be applied or discontinued to provide for completion [of returning citizens] of higher education in Corrections facilities that will yield sustainable employment and successful integration without that contributes to reduced recidivism, will to provide access to educational opportunities beyond incarceration, and will provide an educational experience consistent with a college setting.?~~

Jared Haines moved that the council approve the statement as modified, with authorization for him to make further adjustments for grammar and clarity reflecting the intent of the discussion; Grace Acosta as a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. All present voted in favor.

4. **Research and Evidence-Based Practices for Higher Education in Corrections (9:15-10:20)** Christopher Hodson (BYU)  
Edén Cortes-Lopez (USHE)  
Andy Eisen (UPEP)

Research Workgroup, led by Christopher Hodson, presented best practices and recommendations in the attached slides, with discussion as follows.

(Hodson) The best we can do is to look at examples of places who are successful like New York.

**Recommendation 1:** (Acosta) Consider a public announcement educating the population that it is beneficial to all to have our returning citizens educated. (Senator Owens) This recommendation could be taken to the Governor’s office in the coming weeks.

Recommendation 2: (Hartley) USHE has been working hard on articulation maps for associate and bachelor degrees across the system. By the time this work is finished, in the next couple years, 85% of the bachelor degrees in the system will have an articulated lower division pathway. The next effort is to align tech college programs with degree programs. Creating better messaging to high schools is another effort that is just beginning in partnership with USBE. The council members had a discussion around the transfer guide and how to use the transfer guide, making it accessible. Incarcerated students will need to access the online transfer guide with a counselor as they don't have web access. Julie Hartley will make the articulation map a PDF for those who do not have access to the internet.

Recommendation 4: Eden Cortes gave the council information on 3<sup>rd</sup> party evaluations. Representative Ballard suggested information in writing be included for legislation to be able to request the funding and requirements.

Recommendation 5: (Ballard) Do we need a person in the legislature that is over recruitment? (Cortes) Ideally there would be someone with a joint appointment that would have some recruitment responsibilities. (Bokovoy) SLCC looked at 225 enrolled students and found less than 10 had a traditional HS diploma. This speaks to the population that we are talking about. We need to think about the type of students we are enrolling and the extra support they might need. (Jackson) GANTT (project management) chart, allows board of pardons to make more informed decisions.

Recommendation 6: (Ballard) Legislation passed in 2022 is that upon registering for class, UDC needs to help the student apply for Pell grants and other additional types of funding. We need to remove the requirement of paying 50% of education up front. Does USHE have funds that they can put towards incarcerated students? (Parrish) The current mode of funding education is through the telephone surcharge. This will decrease as we move to the use of tablets instead of telephones. Representative Ballard would like to discuss recommendations on how they will pay for education at the next council meeting. (Jackson) We need to also protect the students. It would be extremely helpful to have the students all moved to one particular section so that they have quiet space for studying and can form working groups. The high level of noise and the theft of books, etc is a real problem for incarcerated students. (Bokovoy) suggests a legislative ask to create separate housing unit for students.

5. **FY-2024 Funding Needs (10:20-10:30)**

Anndrea Parrish

(Parrish) UDC recently submitted its building block request to the governor's office which includes some education priorities in their agency budget. Additional education needs if funding is available include paying interns more per hour, tablets, laptops, software, calculators, maintenance, office support, counselors, cloud storage, tech support, and support staff totaling \$1.6M in one-time funds and \$3M ongoing.

Representative Ballard requested a 10-year account of what the phone surcharge brings in and where it has been spent. Representative Snow requested Anndrea Parrish speak at the education appropriation meeting in October.

6. **Second Chance Pell Update**

Jared Haines

Due to time constraints, this item will be discussed at a later meeting.

7. **Higher Education Advisors for Incarcerated Students**

Representative Ballard  
Senator Owens

Due to time constraints, this item will be discussed at a later meeting.

8. **Work Group Follow-Up**

Jared Haines

Group leads send recommended priorities and action by **October 28** (see Work Plan)

9. **Public Comment**

No public comment.

10. **Future Meetings**

Senator Owens

- November 9, 2022:
- March-April 2023: TBA after legislative session

11. **Other Business**

No other business.

12. **Adjourn** at 11:13am