

**Minutes**  
**PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL**  
**Oct. 7, 2020**  
**8:00 am via Zoom**

**PRESENT (via Zoom Meeting):**

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President

Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology

Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost

Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement

Dr. Brett Perozzi, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Services

Ms. Adrienne Andrews, Assistant Vice President for Diversity

Ms. Sherri Cox, Executive Assistant to the President

Dr. Timothy Herzog, Faculty Senate Chair

Mr. Luke Jenkins, Staff Advisory Council Chair

Mr. Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Ms. Stephanie Hollist, Deputy General Counsel

Mr. Rich Hill, General Counsel

Mr. Steve Nabor, Senior Associate Vice President for Financial Services & CFO

Mr. Dane LeBlanc, Director of Public Safety

Dr. Eric Amsel, Associate Provost and Professor of Psychology

Dr. Kristin Hadley, Dean of Education

Dr. Wei Qiu, Chair of Child and Family Studies

Ms. Ashley Hilton, Affordability and Student Success Manager

Utah Climate & Clean Air Compact Poll Sent Out

Meeting Minutes (Sept. 2, 2020)

Affordability Efforts and Student's Perceptions

WSU Testing Efforts Update

Accreditation Update / Reviewers – New Year 6 Reports

1. The meeting convened at 8:00 a.m. President Brad Mortensen welcomed attendees.
2. An email soliciting President's Council input on the Utah Climate and Clean Air Compact was sent out ahead of the meeting. Support for signing the compact was expressed by President's Council
3. President's Council Members approved minutes from the September 2, 2020, meeting.
4. Mr. Steve Nabor and Ms. Ashley Hilton gave a presentation on Affordability Efforts and Student's Perceptions. Information included the definition of affordability, top cost challenges students face, areas for impact, and discussion on course materials and tuition.
5. Mr. Dane LeBlanc gave a WSU Testing Efforts Update, which included:
  - a. Work being done to obtain test kits from the state and local health departments, USHE, and a third-party service provider.
  - b. On order are four machines plus 1200 antigen testing kits that give 15 minute results.
  - c. The COVID testing center on campus, to be staffed by the Department of Medical Lab Sciences and Annie Taylor Dee School of Nursing, will offer days and times for symptomatic testing on campus.
  - d. If tests are positive, people will be sent to a health provider for positive confirmation.
  - e. An email needs to be sent to campus to remind people of the process, signs to watch for, and how to proceed until they know the results of tests. People also need to self-assess symptoms before coming to campus.
  - f. Meetings are still being encouraged to be held virtually as much as possible.
6. Provost Ravi Krovi and Dr. Eric Amsel discussed an Accreditation Update. The following discussion items included:
  - a. Preparation of the 2021 accreditation report.
  - b. New and approved accreditation standards in 2020 that are better aligned with the Dept. of Education reforms.
  - c. Onsite review will be simplified as much of the review teams will have taken care of review items

prior to the onsite visit.

d. WSU reviewers are needed. Vice Presidents should propose potential reviewer names to Dr. Eric Amsel by Oct. 15 to submit to Northwest.

e. The accreditation report will be written by Dr. Amsel, Dr. Gail Niklason, administrators, faculty and staff from WSU.

### WSU Charter Academy Year End Report

7. Provost Ravi Krovi, Dr. Kristin Hadley, and Dr. Wei Qui, discussed WSU's Charter Academy Year End Report. The charter kindergarten/charter school has been in existence for many years. Accountability framework has been implemented on 1- Performance 2- Recruitment 3- Charter Fidelity 4- Finance and 5- Governance. The charter academy is providing safety means for less contact with people during the pandemic. The school provides invaluable learning opportunities for student teachers and practicum teachers, including a special education practicum for students. It is more of a laboratory than a school, providing research, performance assessment, and implementing activities that are not typical for local district classrooms.

### USHE Faculty Workload Conversation

8. President Mortensen led a USHE Faculty Workload Conversation. A document has been drafted listing concerns over faculty workload policy and how it is measured across the USHE system. A task force/work group will be formed from the institutions to meet and review the document, as there are many issues to consider.

### Student Fee Policy for Institutional Review

9. President Mortensen discussed the Student Fee Policy and maintaining affordability. Many recommendations have been offered. The intention is to take this to the Board of Higher Education meeting on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. A draft has been sent out for review and final comments. A meeting with USHE leaders was held and it appears that every suggestion WSU made seems to be implemented in the policy in one way or another. Diversity, equity and inclusion language is now in the policy that hasn't previously been included.
10. President Mortensen outlined plans moving forward with the University Planning Council for proposed next steps. An attached document was included in the packet for review listing feedback from previous meetings with eight

University Planning Council - Proposed Next Steps

breakout groups on vision and mission. John Welty has created proposed revised editions for review prior to the Oct. 27 University Planning Council meeting. A Town Hall will be scheduled in November to review plans with campus.

Early Retirement Applications

11. Provost Ravi Krovi presented five applications for early retirement:
  - a. David Imig, Developmental Math, Full Retirement, 6/30/21
  - b. David L. West, FM Landscape, Full Retirement, 8/24/20
  - c. Edward J. Hahn, Stewart Library, Full Retirement, 6/30/21
  - d. Hilda Faye Medd, Criminal Justice, Full Retirement, 1/16/21
  - e. Sally M. Taylor, Master's of Business Administration, Full Retirement, 10/30/20

Discussion included questions on if faculty will be replaced during the pandemic. Faculty replacement is on a college and departmental case-by-case situation. No additional legislative budget cuts are likely to take place until the 2021 General Session. The VSIP program will likely result in higher numbers in the early retirement pool in the next few years. We have reserve funds to cover this.

The early retirement requests were approved to move forward to the Personnel and Academic Policy Committee for the Board of Trustees meeting.

Approval

12. The following Program Reviews were presented by Provost Krovi:
  - a. Communication
  - b. Earth and Environmental Sciences
  - c. Foreign Languages
  - d. Medical Laboratory Sciences
  - e. Women and Gender Studies

Program Reviews

All Program Reviews were approved with the following summaries listed: Communication, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Foreign Languages, and Women and Gender Studies will have a seven year review time frame. Medical Laboratory Sciences was put on a five year timeline that is associated with accreditation. A proposal was made for Women and Gender Studies to come back next year with suggestions for support and

Approval

Proposed Academic  
Calendars

strengthening the program moving forward.

13. Provost Krovi shared Proposed Academic Calendars for the years 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Discussion included the topic of closing campus for winter break the week between Christmas and New Year's as an ongoing plan, and if it will give staff and faculty enough time to be prepared when school starts winter semester.

The Proposed Academic Calendars for the years 2024-25 and 2025-26 were approved.

Approval

Board of Trustees Draft  
Agenda

14. A Board of Trustees Draft Agenda was discussed by President Mortensen for the upcoming Oct. 21, 2020, meeting. Trustee liaison roles with their college assignments were discussed. Trustees will report on their college areas starting at the October meeting. A schedule will be created for the trustees to present at future meetings. Shared trustees will report on the technical colleges.

Other

15. Other items addressed by President's Council included the following:
  - a. The November Board of Trustees meeting will most likely be moved from Nov. 17 to Nov. 18 due to a scheduling conflict with the Dual Mission Summit.
  - b. Adrienne Andrews will be having surgery Oct. 15 and out of the office for a recovery.

Upcoming Events

16. Upcoming Events were included in the packet without discussion.

Meeting Adjourn

17. With no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.