



PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

Miller Administration Boardroom and Zoom

PRESENT:

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President

Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Affairs

Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost

Dr. Brett Perozzi, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology

Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement (via Zoom)

Ms. Adrienne Andrews, Assistant Vice President for Diversity & Chief Diversity Officer

Ms. Sherri Cox, Secretary to the Board (via Zoom)

Mr. Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Dr. Laine Berghout, Faculty Senate Chair/Professor/Chemistry (Zoom)

Dr. Gail Niklason, Staff Advisory Council Chair

Mr. Rich Hill, General Counsel (via Zoom)

Ms. Stephanie Hollist, Deputy General Counsel

Ms. Catherine Sanchez – Presidential Leadership Fellow

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Brad Mortensen, who welcomed all in attendance.

Visiting Presidential Leadership Fellow, Catherine Sanchez, introduced herself to the group and the members of President's Council took a few minutes to share with Catherine their introductions and responsibilities.

Agenda Items**Meeting Minutes Approval (Sept. 1, 2021):**

Meeting minutes from September 1, 2021, were reviewed by the President's Council. Pending changes to the early retirement request to move to the Board of Trustees for approval, the minutes were approved.

Vaccination and Testing Updates:

Vice President Brett Perozzi presented vaccination and testing updates. He gave statistics on the survey that has gone out to students to verify their vaccination status. 2,000 students have asked for exemptions. The surveys are linked to their registration for spring semester. The vaccination task force would like to add members to the committee that are not involved with registration decisions as there may be policy implications needing to be addressed. Adding more members to the committee may give more balance to decisions being made. Discussion included further testing requirements, funding to support it, incentives for vaccinations, and reviewing the exclusions being claimed. This is a continuous work in progress moving forward.

USHE Updates:

President Mortensen discussed USHE updates on the following:

- **Statewide Online Purpose Draft** – Scott Wyatt created a first draft statement of the state-wide initiative. After review and questions, a new draft is being created for the November Board of Higher Education meeting.
The legislature set aside funding to develop unified online general education courses. We anticipate that institutions will be allowed to submit bids for the remaining funding to put forth for innovation more generally. USHE hopes to make all awards prior to the 2022 legislative session.
- **Strategic Workforce Initiatives** – All awards are previously funded based on base budgets. No new awards will be considered in the 2022 legislative session.
- **Performance Metrics** – We submitted our performance metrics. Commissioner Woolstenhulme and Chief Economist Carrie Mayne will be re-visiting all campuses again to review the performance metrics. The biggest area of contention is over general education certificates and where they should be counted.
- **Learn and Work Grants** – We have been awarded \$2,000,000 re-engagement money, with another \$2,000,000 for the learn and work grant.
- **Keys to Success** – The Garff Foundation Success Initiative gave a presentation at the meeting. They are working closely with USHE institutions to establish a

outreach, scholarship, and advising opportunities to 120 high schools for 11th and 12th graders. We need to make sure we are included in this program.

- **Fall Enrollment Numbers** – Statistics should be published October 22. We can then see how we are doing compared to other institutions.
- **Shared Services** – A national consultant has been hired to do a deep dive in all institutions to discuss job duties, HR processes, and jobs on campuses. Staff will be sent a survey to participate in concerning their job duties. Notification from the president needs to be sent to campus regarding this pending survey. The goal is to have results to discuss at the 2022 legislative session.
- **Statewide Advocacy Campaign** – A firm has been hired by USHE to work on a plan to share with institutions to do statewide advocacy for higher education with a soft launch in late November.
- President Mortensen's three-year review officially begins tomorrow. Stan Albrecht will be heading this as a past president at USU. Sherri will be setting up meetings with many people to facilitate this review.

Strategic Plan Updates:

President Mortensen gave a strategic plan update concerning Ally Bank, who announced they will be serving Hispanic institutions and giving \$100,000 per year for five years to institutions that fit their criteria. Ogden City will be making an announcement concerning this during Hispanic Heritage month on October 12.

Accreditation Schedule:

Provost Ravi Krovi discussed the upcoming accreditation review, which is being conducted by Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities October 18-20 via Zoom. Much work has been done by Gail Niklason and Eric Amsel to prepare for the review. Students, faculty, staff, deans, vice presidents, Board of Trustees, and the president are all involved in meetings. The exit meeting will be on October 20 listing NWCCU's findings and recommendations.

Early Retirement Requests:

Several early retirement requests were discussed by Vice President Norm Tarbox. Decisions about the VSIP program have not been made yet. Some of the early retirement requests indicate that they are based on VSIP approval. They must be approved by the president and Board of Trustees.

More conversation is needed on one early retirement request that was submitted based on the condition of emeritus status, but the VSIP status is not yet approved. If requests have declared their intent to leave the institution prior to the date of the program, they are not eligible for the VSIP program. The requests will need to be reviewed before moving on to the Board of Trustees.

Approval: The early retirement requests will need further review before being approved and moved to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

Board of Trustees Draft Agenda:

President Mortensen discussed the Board of Trustees draft agenda for the October 26, 2021, meeting which will be held at the Davis Campus Stewart Center. Provost Ravi Krovi has been asked to create a schedule for the deans to present their college liaison reports. Dean Dave Ferro from the College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology and Trustee Curtis Funk will present at the October 26 meeting. The Diversity meeting with Trustees was discussed along with the best time to schedule it. A doodle poll will be sent out to Trustees to coordinate a meeting time.

Other:

Other items discussed during President's Council included:

- a. President Mortensen shared that Human Resources has prepared a communication to send to faculty and staff about holiday hours.
- b. President Mortensen discussed holding a mid-semester town hall in early November to give updates on registration, testing, vaccinations, etc.
- c. A discussion regarding Wednesday 7:00 am–7:00 pm hours took place. Questions came up about if this is being implemented. A few offices were open at that time this morning. Several concerns were expressed at SAC meeting yesterday and questions concerning why it is being done and how to implement it. Communication needs to go out concerning expectations and processes on how to facilitate support to make it successful. Provost Krovi will discuss this with deans this afternoon. Vice President Brett Perozzi will develop next steps and marketing moving forward to help create a better understanding of what is being asked. Adrienne Andrews would like this added to Tuesday Tips. Vice President Perozzi would like to treat this as a pilot program, as implementing Saturday hours took some time.
- d. Adrienne Andrews suggested that mid-level managers need to communicate with employees about stress and burnout. It is a real concern that needs to be acknowledged. People need to be validated and humanity needs to be shown.
- e. Rich Hill had two items of business to discuss: 1- Acquisition of the Falcon Hill building paperwork is in progress. 2- Northern Utah Venture Fund will be holding its first meeting in the next couple of weeks. Moving forward, they may have the first investment by the end of the year.

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming events were provided for reference in the packet without discussion.

Adjournment:

Without any further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

