

October 7, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: William A. Sederburg

SUBJECT: Community College Task Force Interim Report—Discussion Item

Background

In June, 2009, a task force was created to study community college issues in the Utah System of Higher Education. Dr. Cynthia Bioteau, President of Salt Lake Community College was asked to chair the task force. The task force was asked to determine the function, challenges, recommendations and direction for the future of community colleges in Utah. The follow individuals were asked to serve on the taskforce:

Members

Dr. Cynthia Bioteau, President, SLCC, Chair
 Dr. Troy Justesen, Vice President, SLCC Vice Chair
 President Scott Wyatt, Snow College
 Dr. Mike King, Interim President, CEU
 Dr. John Francis, Associate Vice President, U of U
 Dr. Gary Straquadine, Dean, USU
 Dr. Stephen Allen, Associate Vice President, SUU
 Dr. Mike Vaughan, Provost, WSU
 Dr. Cory Duckworth, Vice President, UVU

Dr. Shad Sorenson, Associate Vice President, UVU
 Dr. Donna Dillingham-Evans, Vice President, DSC
 Dr. Gary Wixom, Assistant Commissioner, USHE

Staff

Carol Smedley, Assistant Task Force Facilitator, SLCC
 Denise Anderson, Administrative Assistant, SLCC

Community colleges are at the heart of the delivery system for postsecondary education in the United States. Over the last 20 years, the community college system in Utah, and other parts of the nation, has been deemphasized as two-year institutions have moved to four-year institutions, and four-year institutions have moved to University Status. Nationally, this trend is a concern; in Utah, we want to promote the value of community colleges, transition the impact of the changing nature of institutions, and preserve the community college component within the Utah System of Higher Education. In order to address the role of the community college in Utah, the task force has formed the following subcommittees.

1. Public Messaging
2. Outcome Measurements
3. Strategic Initiatives
4. Career and Technical Education/Non Credit Educational Opportunities

Dr. Troy Justesen, Vice President for Workforce, Professional & Literacy Development at Salt Lake Community College will make a presentation to the Regents concerning the work of the committee and facilitate a discussion. A brief update on the work of the task force is attached. The task force is planning to submit a final report to the Regents in December 2009.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Regents receive the report of the Community College Task Force, raise questions, and provide comments and/or recommendations for the final report.

William A. Sederburg, Commissioner

DLB/GW
Attachment



At the request of Utah System of Higher Education Commissioner William Sederberg, the Utah Community College Task Force was launched in June, 2009, with Dr. Cynthia Bioteau, President of Salt Lake Community College serving as Chair and Dr. Troy Justesen, SLCC Vice President serving as Vice Chair. Senior administrators from every degree-granting institution of USHE, along with USHE administrators and staff, committed to this endeavor by investing significant on-going time and travel. Commissioner Sederberg charged the Task Force to address the crisis of access and affordability at Utah's community colleges and make recommendations to the State Board of Regents in order to ensure continued educational and training opportunities for future generations of Utahns.

The Task Force identified four key barriers that hinder access and affordability at community colleges: Image, Organizational Structure, Funding and Outcome Measures. By researching national best practices and through thorough discussions, the Task Force arrived at a range of options addressing each barrier. These options are categorized into Short Term Recommendations which, if selected, could be implemented as early as Spring, 2010; Intermediate Recommendations which could be implemented by mid-2011; and Longer Term Recommendations, which could be implemented in 2012.

Early on, members of the Task Force recognized the crucial opportunity now facing the state to secure accessible and affordable educational opportunities for future generations of Utahns. As a result, the Task Force did not merely want to provide status quo methods, but instead committed to make bold recommendations that invite state leaders to consider new options to ensure that the community college mission in Utah continues. On Friday, October 16, Dr. Troy Justesen will present a preliminary Powerpoint presentation to discuss the four barriers identified with multiple options for each. The Task Force invites your insight, recommendations and feedback, in preparation for the final report coming near year end.

Thank you.
Utah Community College Task Force