MEMORANDUM

UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

October 21, 2022

Simplified Admissions Taskforce Update

Since the August Student Affairs Committee meeting, the Simplified Admission Taskforce has met to readdress a revised timeframe and objectives. This meeting led to the creation of two subcommittees (the Common Application and Process Subcommittee and the Access and Equity Subcommittee) with members and leadership represented from all participating USHE institutions. The revised objectives, timeframe, and subcommittee work outlines are shown below.

New Taskforce Objectives

1. Recommendation to consider a common process for in-state, undergraduate students applying to public colleges and universities in Utah to be implemented by Fall 2024.
    a. A requested dollar to include the one-time creation and ongoing support and maintenance of a solution in addition to one-time funds for marketing.
2. Recommendation around specific details of the common process that may or may not include:
    a. Direct admissions in conjunction with a common process
    b. State scholarship application integration
3. Recommendation regarding application fees informed by institutional audit of pre-enrollment fees.
4. Recommendation on the sharing of USBE student directory information.

Timeframe

*   Taskforce Kickoff Meeting (September 1, 9:00 am – 10:30 am).
*   Subcommittees will meet and develop recommendations between taskforce meetings.
*   Recommendations from subcommittees and taskforce discussion:
    October 6, in-person
    November 10, in-person
    December 1, in-person

Recommendations from the taskforce will be presented at the December 16 Student Affairs Committee meeting.

Subcommittees and Topics of Focus

Common Application and Process Subcommittee

*   Develop a recommendation on common process for all institutions.
*   Develop a recommendation on system-wide CRM or not.
*   Questions to be included with the app?
    a. Identify the common questions that apply to all state institutions.
    b. How to navigate supplemental questions and items as desired from each institution.
    c. What unique questions must be included for some institutions due to SIS requirements?
*   How can a common application lead to more equitable outcomes?

- Determine where the application portal will live. It needs to be available on institutional websites, but who hosts it? USHE or a 3ʳᵈ party vendor?
- Include a systematized way for processing and awarding HB144 Affidavits.
- Develop a recommendation on direct admissions.
    a. Define what direct admissions is in our state.
    b. Explore a direct admissions solution in conjunction with a common application and how a direct admissions process would work.
    c. Are a common app and direct admissions a phased approach? Which comes first?
    d. What is the timeline for direct admissions to take place? Application open and close times.
- Recommendation on the sharing of K-12 data.
    a. Explore strategies to utilize K-12 student data (9-12 grade) in conjunction with the common application and direct admissions process.
    b. Determine a timeline for the delivery of the student data to USHE institutions.
- Explore the residency process with the common application
- How do we present program of study across the state?

Access and Equity Subcommittee

- Access
    a. What is the implication of a common application on eliminating attainment gaps? https://ushe.edu/systemwide-attainment-progress/
    b. How would a common application advance opportunities for historically underserved students and communities?
    c. Placement testing implications during the application process. How does this work for each institution? When is it required? When isn't it required?
    d. We need to have a bi-lingual aspect to the application.
- Application fees
    a. Utilizing data obtained by OCHE, explore the feasibility of waiving application fees for all students that qualify to use the common app.
    b. Many institutions are already waiving application fees for first-time undergraduate students, and many are planning to move to waive fees. What institutions are already waiving fees?
- Marketing
    a. Outline a strategy to inform all students about the common application process for initial rollout and ongoing annual messaging.
    b. What would our common application process be called?
    c. Determine first-time and ongoing marketing budget.
- Communication
    a. How would students be notified of their admission?
    b. What is the role of USHE in communicating with students?
    c. What is the role of institutions in communicating directly with students during and after submitting the common application? What is the timeline for institutions to reach out to students?

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is an information item only; no action is required.