



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

February 17, 2023

Simplified Admissions: Common Application Update

Concepts related to simplifying admissions, including the possibility of a common systemwide admissions application, have been discussed with USHE presidents and the Board of Higher Education at its January 13 board meeting. The presentation outlined the reasons for a common application, the concepts discussed by the task force, and common institutional concerns.

Why simplified admissions?

- Remove barriers to access for Utah high school students and adults
- Increase enrollment, especially for historically underrepresented populations
- The application fee is a barrier to access
- Support shared services across the system

Concepts discussed by the taskforce:

1. Common admissions application for all 16 USHE institutions
2. Engagement of a strategic enrollment management consultant
3. Making the admissions application free
4. Intentionally engaging with key constituent groups and historically underrepresented populations

Common Institutional Concerns:

1. Workload
2. Yield
3. Budget Impact
4. Security
5. Ease of Use

Based on the presentation to the board in the January meeting, the board voted to continue the work of the task force by hiring a consultant to assist with the scoping of and imagining of future development and implementation of a common application. Additionally, the board instructed the task force to report on the consultant's findings in the September 2023 board meeting. An official RFP has been submitted through purchasing and posted for vendor response. It is anticipated that a contract with the selected vendor will be ready by early March 2023.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is a discussion item only; no action is required.