



MEMORANDUM

May 18, 2023

Revisions to Board Policies R701, R741, R742, R744 & R745: Capital Project Prioritization Process

In the March 2023 Utah Board of Higher Education meeting, the Board reviewed the OCHE-authored memorandum *Potential Revisions to Board Policies on Capital Facilities* and discussed options for revising current Board policies to accommodate a multi-year prioritization cycle for institution non-dedicated project requests. Benefits of such revisions include a more organized and sequenced planning of system-priority projects in the context of a more stable short-term planning horizon. The attached proposed Board policy revisions would allow for the following:

Requirement to Prioritize at Least Once Every Three Years, Option to Prioritize Annually

Current Board policy requires the Board to review and prioritize institution non-dedicated project requests annually. The proposed policy changes would require the Board to review and prioritize institution non-dedicated project requests at least once every three years, with the option to elicit project requests and newly review and prioritize them in any year within the three-year cycle.

Annual Determination Whether to Newly Prioritize Project Requests

Current Board policy requires the Board to annually adopt priority guidelines pertaining to the most pressing and critical capital needs for the Utah System of Higher Education, not funded as dedicated projects. The proposed policy changes would require the Board to make an annual determination as to whether to exercise the option to elicit project requests and newly review and prioritize them within the three-year cycle. In a year that the Board elects not to newly review and prioritize requests, the Board would adopt the prioritized ranking of unfunded non-dedicated projects from the most recent year in which they were reviewed and scored.

Not Applicable to Degree-Granting Non-Dedicated Requests or Non-State Funded Requests

Current Board policy requires the Board to annually review and prioritize degree-granting dedicated project requests and other non-state funded requests. Those policies would remain unchanged. The proposed policy changes would only apply to institution non-dedicated project requests and instances where the Board elects to use technical college capital project funds to partially offset costs for a non-dedicated capital project request for technical colleges.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Board adopt the proposed revisions to policies R701, R741, R742, R744, and R745.

Attachments