



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

March 27, 2025

## Board Policy Updates

### Background

As outlined below, the Commissioner recommends approval of amendments to seven Board policies.

#### **Board Policy R131, Review and Approval of Centers for Compliance with Equal Opportunity Initiatives**

The following amendments to Board Policy R131 are recommended to align with Utah System of Higher Education guidance:

- Updating the definition of cultural center to be defined as a program, office, initiative, administrative unit, sub-unit, committee, or center that an institution has established or seeks to establish that is focused on a specific culture, population, or group based on a personal identity characteristic;
- Clarifying in subsection 4.3 that centers cannot provide student resources; and
- Adding institutional reporting requirements to the Board for the number of students served at the center annually.

This policy was shared with institutional general counsel, presidents, and chief student affairs officers for feedback.

#### **Board Policy R209, Evaluation of Presidents**

The following amendments are recommended:

- Removing language about institutional liaisons;
- Stating that presidents will receive ongoing informal performance evaluations;
- Adding executive coaching and professional development requirements for presidents; and
- Stating when the president must inform the Board of Trustees about personnel action.

This policy was shared with institutional general counsel and presidents for feedback.

#### **Board Policy R401, Approval and Modification of Instructional Programs and Administrative Units within Institutional Role, Mission, and Designated Service Region**

The following amendments are recommended based on amendments to Board Policy R131:

- Updating the reference to cultural centers to align with amendments in Board Policy R131.

#### **Board Policy R430, *Deep Technology Talent Initiative***

The following amendments are recommended based on the Office of the Commissioner's five-year policy review:

- Renumbering the policy to R904 to move the policy to the section about workforce alignment;
- Updating the advisory council membership requirements to align with statutory requirements;
- Adding that Talent Ready Utah shall provide staff support for the advisory council;
- Updating subsection 5.2, subsection 6.1.6, and section 7 to align with statutory requirements; and
- Non-substantive edits for consistency with other Board policies.

This policy was shared with institutional general counsels and presidents for feedback.

#### **Board Policy R432, *Custom Fit***

The following amendments are recommended based on the Office of the Commissioner's five-year policy review:

- Renumbering the policy to R903 to move the policy to the section about workforce alignment;
- Updating the definition of institution;
- Updating language for clarity; and
- Non-substantive edits for consistency with other Board policies.

This policy was shared with institutional general counsel and presidents for feedback.

#### **Board Policy R492, *Honorary Degrees***

The following amendments are recommended based on the Office of the Commissioner's five-year policy review:

- Changing the language to state more generally that USHE degree-granting institutions may award honorary degrees; USHE institutional boards of trustees are responsible for selecting honorary degree recipient(s); and technical colleges, as defined in [Utah Code 53B-2a-105](#), do not award honorary degrees;
- Removing the language stating that some honorary doctorates are in the name of the Utah Board of Higher Education; and
- Updating language for clarity and consistency with other Board policies.

This policy was shared with institutional general counsels and presidents for feedback.

#### **Board Policy R512, *Resident Student Status***

The following amendments are recommended:

- Stating that international students in the United States who have been granted a nonimmigrant visa may immediately qualify for resident student status if they have been granted: (1) a special immigrant visa; or (2) refugee status, humanitarian parole, temporary protected status, or asylum to align with the intent of [HB 102 \(2024\)](#).

### **Commissioner's Recommendation**

The Commissioner recommends that the Board approve amending seven policies.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Redline Board Policy R131

Attachment 2 – Clean Board Policy R131

Attachment 3 – Redlined Board Policy R209

Attachment 4 – Clean Board Policy R209

Attachment 5 – Redlined Board Policy R401

Attachment 6 – Clean Board Policy R401

Attachment 7 – Redlined Board Policy R430

Attachment 8 – Clean Board Policy R904

Attachment 9 – Redlined Board Policy R432

Attachment 10 – Clean Board Policy R903

Attachment 11 – Redlined Board Policy R492

Attachment 12 – Clean Board Policy R492

Attachment 13 – Redlined Board Policy R512

Attachment 14 – Clean Board Policy R512