

**OGDEN-WEBER TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

October 28, 2021  
Student Services Building  
Harold W Ritchey Board Room  
4:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Nancy Blair	Ogden School Board of Education
Kori Ann Edwards	Business/Industry
Mark Jenkins (Zoom)	Business/Industry
Slade Opheikens (Zoom)	Business/Industry
Don Salazar (Zoom)	Business/Industry
William Shafer	Business/Industry
Paul Widdison	Weber School Board of Education

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Cameron Cook	Business/Industry
Matt Wardle, Chair	Business/Industry

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

James R. Taggart	Ogden-Weber Technical College
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**GUESTS**

Jessellie Anderson (Zoom)	Utah Board of Higher Education
Julia Branch	Ogden-Weber Technical College
Chad Burchell	Ogden-Weber Technical College
Tyler Call	Ogden-Weber Technical College
Geoffrey Landward	Utah System of Higher Education
Eric Petersen (Zoom)	Attorney General's Office
Michael Rodas	YouthBuild Program
Monica Schwenk	Ogden-Weber Technical College
Andrea Woodring	Weber Adult Education
Tina Smith	Recording Secretary

The Board of Directors of the Ogden-Weber Technical College met on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in the C. Brent Wallis Student Services Building, Harold W Ritchey Board Room. A Zoom option was provided for members and guests who could not attend in person.

Matt Wardle, chair, and Cameron Cook were excused from the meeting.

Audit Committee member Paul Widdison was asked to conduct the meeting until the chair/vice chair elections were held.

Guests included Andrea Woodring, principal, Weber Adult Education; Michael Rodas, student, YouthBuild program; and Julia Branch, manager, YouthBuild program.

Members and guests participating via Zoom: Don Salazar, board member; Slade Opheikens, board member; Mark Jenkins, board member; Eric Petersen, guest, representing the Attorney General's Office; and Jesselie Anderson, guest, representing the Utah Board of Higher Education.

## **1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER: DON SALAZAR, WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Per statute, the OECH Board shares a trustee with Weber State University (WSU). Kearston Cutrubus was the shared trustee and was recently elected chair of the WSU Board. She stepped down from the OTECH Board in June due to her additional responsibilities.

Don Salazar, CTI Construction, was appointed to take her place. He is the founder and president of CTI, and has served as chair of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Utah Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He has been a strong supporter of the college for many years.

## **2. BOARD LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS**

The board holds elections for the positions of chair and vice chair every two years. Mr. Wardle had previously asked Mr. Widdison to act as the Nominating Committee. President Taggart sent an email to the board on August 11, 2021, notifying them of the upcoming elections and asking them to contact Mr. Widdison if they were interested in serving in this capacity.

**Chair Position:** Mr. Wardle indicated he is willing to serve another two-year term. No other trustees indicated an interest in the position. Mr. Widdison opened the floor for additional nominations; none were received.

A motion to elect Matt Wardle to the position of chair was made by Will Shafer, seconded by Kori Ann Edwards, and carried unanimously.

**Vice Chair Position:** Ms. Edwards indicated she is willing to serve a two-year term as vice chair. No other trustees indicated interest in the position. Mr. Widdison opened the floor for additional nominations; none were received.

A motion to elect Kori Ann Edwards to the position of vice chair was made by Will Shafer, seconded by Nancy Blair, and carried unanimously.

### **3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AUGUST 26, 2021**

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 26, 2021, was made by Paul Widdison, seconded by Will Shafer, and carried unanimously.

### **4. STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL RODAS, YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM**

Mr. Rodas spoke about his involvement with the program and accomplishments. He experienced challenges with anxiety centered around school and became credit deficient as a result. YouthBuild helped him build his confidence, and he is slated to receive his high school completion in the near future. President Taggart noted Mr. Rodas was asked to help unveil the college's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary flag, representing current students.

YouthBuild serves youth 16-24 years of age who don't have their GED or diploma. They learn leadership and construction skills and are required to give back to the community through volunteer efforts. The program partners with Weber Adult Ed, which has one of the highest completion rates for adult ed in the state and nation.

YouthBuild students helped build all the wooden frames for the "Weber Remembers: 9/11" project.

### **5. APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO BOARD BYLAWS**

Senate Bill 111 merged the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) and Utah College of Applied Technology. As a result, the Board Bylaws were updated to add language from the bill and remove outdated wording and duties.

Section 6.4 is new and was added to address which member shall conduct board meetings in the absence of the chair and vice chair. A trustee assigned to the Audit Committee will fill in.

A motion to approve the revisions to the Board Bylaws was made by Paul Widdison, seconded by Will Shafer, and carried unanimously.

A question was raised as to whether the board holds many emergency meetings; it does not.

### **6. COLLEGE AND WEBER ADULT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**

The college's YouthBuild program has partnered with Weber Adult Education for the past 10 years. There is a significant need for adult ed in the community as indicated by a study conducted by WSU and Ogden Civic Action Network. It is estimated there are 9,000 adults without a high school diploma in Ogden City and 18,000 in Weber County.

Students come into the adult ed program reading at a first or second grade level; others are credit deficient. Because of these and other factors, the success rate of adult

education programs are very low across the state and nation. On average, an individual will attempt to complete a high school diploma eight different times.

Ms. Woodring was hired as the designated principal for Weber Adult Ed and has implemented initiatives which have increased enrollments. Over the past year, President Taggart and Principal Woodring have discussed the need for a better way to serve these individuals. They have looked at best practices used in Oregon, Washington, Louisiana, and Ohio.

President Taggart and Principal Woodring developed a proposal they will review with the OTECH Board, Weber School Board of Education, and Utah State Board of Education. Have shared the proposal with USHE, and OTECH and Weber Adult Ed were asked to take the lead on the project on the tech ed side. Will accelerate the ability of students to earn a high school diploma and post-secondary credential at the same time.

Principal Woodring reported on the following:

- Weber Adult Ed and OTECH's partnership targets individuals who need to earn a diploma or GED as well as students who need English acquisition to enter college programs.
- Weber Adult Ed focuses on obtaining a diploma/GED and skills training but can help in other ways. For instance, an individual may have a diploma but cannot meet OTECH program requirements, e.g., math, and Weber Adult Ed can help with remediation. Students are assessed using Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE), and Weber Adult Ed targets their learning gaps, individualizes their instruction, and helps them gain progress toward a GED/diploma.
- As mentioned previously, there are over 18,000 people in the community over the age of 18 who need a high school diploma. Principal Woodring met with Ogden School District (OSD) Superintendent Luke Rasmussen and some principals last week, and OSD is planning to start an adult ed program as well. Will provide additional resources for the community.
- Investing in adult education and post-secondary training is an economic catalyst for Ogden.
- Why the partnership? Employers will need 23 million more degree holders than colleges and universities can produce. Approximately two-thirds of college completion goals will come from non-traditional students entering and remaining in the pipeline.
- Started the Bridge Program for English acquisition to help students build their vocabulary. Also helping students learn academic vocabulary to help them enroll into OTECH programs.
- Ripple effect of a high school dropout:
  - Two times as likely to be unemployed.

- Three times as likely to live in poverty.
- Four times as likely to have poor health.
- Eight times as likely to be incarcerated.
- The Bridge Program targets learning gaps and seeks to increase TABE levels. Recently tested the college's YouthBuild students, and 75 percent experienced an increase in their learning levels.
- Want to create an accelerated diploma pathway where students can earn a high school diploma with Weber Adult Ed; a Microsoft certification; industry-recognized OTECH credential; and an OTECH certificate. Reviewed the college's and Utah State Board of Education curriculum to identify similarities and build alignment. Currently looking at requesting a waiver for the 2.5 PE credits required for high school completion.
- After implementing the new curriculum in her program, reports show Ms. Woodring's students have the highest TABE scores in the state.

Ms. Edwards asked how Ms. Woodring identifies students who would benefit from the program. Ms. Woodring partnered with Weber School District to identify students before they drop out and advertises to them. Starting a dual enrollment program at Bonneville High School that combines high school and adult ed.

The college provides Weber Adult Ed with space in the Business Building at no cost. Also looking at a lease option for the Seminary Building.

The college has always had a pathway for adult and tech ed. Because time is a factor for students, combining the requirements into a single program will be beneficial. Once students complete, they can move on to earning stackable credentials.

Information can be found on the Weber Adult Ed website. The program hosts eight orientations a month. There is a \$75 registration fee that covers the whole year. Classes run 8:30 a.m. through 8:30 p.m.

The Utah Adult Ed Association recently named the college as its "Community Partner of the Year."

The college is now a GED testing site.

## **7. TIME OF GIVING CAMPAIGN**

The college sponsors a "Time of Giving" campaign each year to raise funds to support the college and students. When Ms. Murdock applies for grants, many organizations and foundations ask if the college's boards and employees donate to the institution. The Development Office implemented the "Time of Giving" campaign several years ago and asks the Board of Trustees, Foundation Board, employees, and occupational advisory committee members to donate. Over \$28,000 was raised in last year's campaign.

As part of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the college is requesting donations with a "5" in it. Focusing on increasing the number of donors as opposed to the amount raised.

President Taggart thanked members for their past support. Members can make donations using the QR code in the board booklet or by emailing Ms. Murdock.

## **8. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

Referencing the “College Facilities Improvements Update,” a question was raised on whether the transformer and steam tunnel replacement projects had been completed. Mr. Call reported the steam tunnel project is finishing its second year and has become a three-year project, taking precedence over other projects. Final phase will be completed next year.

The transformer project is in a follow-up phase that may continue into next year because the college identified a life/safety issue in the Union Building.

The financials are on track.

Ms. Edwards noted the college is seeing a large number of graduates from the Nursing Assistant program. Much needed during this time.

President Taggart reported on the following:

- USHE provides system institutions with enrollment data (fall semester for degree-granting; first quarter for tech colleges). OTECH set aggressive goals for increasing enrollment, retention, and completion. The college has had significant growth over where it was last year—the largest of the tech colleges. Saw a 25 percent increase in high school students, and 7.5 percent increase in adults. OTECH accounted for 27 percent of growth of the eight tech colleges.
- Fall graduation was held on October 21. Will move graduations off campus due to physical limitations on campus and decrease to two per year. Looking at holding summer graduation 2022 at Ben Lomond High School and fall graduation 2022 at the Eccles Conference Center.
- The college has held vaccination clinics every three weeks for employees and the community. Latest clinic was held on the same night as fall graduation. Provided participants with free food and t-shirts if they had a vaccination card or got vaccinated that night.
- President Taggart and Ms. Murdock have been presenting 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary community scholarships to every city council in the region.
- Congressman Blake Moore is a strong supporter of tech colleges in his district (OTECH, DTECH, UBTECH, BTECH) and has visited each institution. He was a supporter of YouthBuild before he was elected as a congressman. When redistricting has been completed, he would like to hold an education summit at OTECH.
- The college continues to sponsor events throughout the community. Want to ensure it is reaching underrepresented populations. Held Manufacturing Day early in October to allow high school and charter school students to explore

manufacturing programs and tour local employers. Has helped increase secondary enrollments in manufacturing programs. The “Spark Your Career” event is directed at women, exposing them to manufacturing.

- The college was voted “Best Vocational/Trade School in Northern Utah,” in the Standard Examiner Reader’s Choice Awards. The college’s Cosmetology, Nail Tech, and Barbering programs were also recognized as “Best Cosmetology School in Northern Utah.”
- Three media outlets highlighted YouthBuild students and their efforts to support the “Weber Remembers 9/11” project.
- Held a summer party to celebrate the college’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Catering was provided by Lucky Slice, and Farr’s Ice Cream donated ice cream.
- Rather than hold separate legislative breakfasts, Weber State, OTECH, DTECH, and Ogden, Weber, Davis, and Morgan School Districts agreed to hold a single regional event on Monday, November 29 at 8:00 a.m. at the WSU-Davis campus. Will send an appointment to the board. Will have a single presentation that covers both public and higher education.

Mr. Opheikens asked how the vaccine mandate is impacting the college, employees, and students. President Taggart indicated OTECH does not have a vaccine mandate for employees or students. The legislature and Utah Board of Higher Education strongly encourage vaccinations but left the decision at the local level. State law prohibits the college from mandating masks. OTECH has focused on promoting and strongly encouraging vaccinations and masks rather than mandating them.

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

The Board of Directors is scheduled to meet on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in the C. Brent Wallis Student Services Building, Harold W Ritchey Board Room. The board may cancel the meeting if there are no items requiring action in December.

**UPDATE:** The December board meeting was canceled.

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.