

## **R587, Contract of Lease-Purchase Financing<sup>1</sup>**

**R587-1 Purpose:** To provide policy and procedural guidelines for the issuance of contract and lease-purchase financing within USHE for facilities construction/acquisition or major equipment purchases.<sup>2</sup>

### **R587-2 References**

- 2.1** Utah Code § 53B-1-402, Establishment of Board of Higher Education
- 2.2** Utah Code § 53B-20-103, Powers of State Board
- 2.3** Utah Code § 53B-21-108, Financing Project by Contract or Lease Agreement Instead of by Bond Issue
- 2.4** Utah Code § 63A-5b-1002, State Building Energy Efficiency Program
- 2.5** Utah Code Title 63B, Chapter 1, Part 3, State Building Ownership Authority Act
- 2.6** Utah Code Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah Procurement Code
- 2.7** Board Policy R590, Issuance Bonds for Colleges and Universities
- 2.8** Board Policy R701, Capital Facilities
- 2.9** Board Policy R712, Nontraditional Arrangements for Development of Facilities on Campuses

### **R587-3 Definitions**

- 3.1 Lease-purchase Financing** – A financing method for acquisition of capital facilities assets, major equipment items (tangible assets), and computer software (intangible assets) that amortizes the cost of the asset over a specified time period, at the conclusion of which the asset vests in the lessee.
- 3.2 Capital or Finance Lease** – A lease agreement in which the lessor agrees to transfer ownership rights of the asset to the lessee after the completion of the lease period.
- 3.3 Operating Lease** – A contract that allows for the use of an asset, but does not convey rights of ownership unless a purchase option is available and exercised.
- 3.4 Direct Financing** – The private placement of financing with a leasing company or bank to finance the cost of the asset and lease it to the institution.

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<sup>1</sup> *Approved May 15, 1984, amended May 17, 2013; and January 24, 2014.*

<sup>2</sup> *Technical edits December 12, 2024.*

**3.5 Certificates of Participation** – Arrangement of financing through the public sale of certificates of participation (COPs) where the certificate holders own a pro rata share in a specific pledged revenue stream (usually lease payments by the issuer) and essentially become the lessors.

**3.6 Leasehold Revenue Bonds** – Financing of capital assets through the sale of bonds secured by lease payments (“lease revenue bonds”). This method requires that the property and/or equipment be purchased by a not-for-profit corporation or governmental agency. The not-for-profit corporation or governmental agency issues bonds secured by the lease and serves as lessor of the property. This form of financing is used by the State Building Ownership Authority (SBOA) – see Utah Code §63B-1-301 to 321.

**3.7 Energy Service Agreement** – A contractual agreement entered into whereby the institution implements energy efficiency measures using the stream of savings in utility costs resulting from implementation of the energy efficiency measures as the funding source for repayment.

#### **R587-4 Policy – Acquisition of Facilities**

**4.1** Pursuant to [Utah Code section 53B-21-108](#) the Board may authorize institutions to acquire facilities using contracts and lease-purchase agreements instead of by revenue bond issue whenever it determines it to be advisable, subject to the following conditions:

**4.1.1** Feasibility Study – Careful analysis of the feasibility of alternative financing methods (e.g., lease-purchase vs. revenue bonding) should be made of projected revenues, expenses, and other relevant factors to establish that the lease purchase option is the preferred method for financing a facilities project.

**4.1.2** Term of the Lease – A contract or lease-purchase agreement may not to exceed 40 years.

**4.1.3** Approval of Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimates – For facilities to be constructed by a third party for ownership by the institution by means of contract or lease-purchase agreement, plans and specifications detailing the scope of and cost estimates for the project must be submitted to the Board of Higher Education for approval prior to execution of the agreement.

**4.1.4** Quality Control – Adequate provisions are to be included in the contractual agreement to ensure that the design and construction of the facilities conform to standards stipulated by the institution and that there is compliance with applicable state or local construction codes.

**4.1.5 Sources of Funding** – Except for energy efficiency agreements for projects qualifying under the State Building Energy Efficiency Program (Utah Code §63A-5-701) funding for contract or lease payments to amortize the project cost are to come from institutional revenues not a part of the institutions appropriated budget.

**4.1.6 Ultimate Ownership of the Facility** – The agreement shall specify that when all lease installments have been paid in full as to both principal and interest the ownership of the facility shall vest in the institution.

**4.2 Availability of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for Assistance:** When requested by the institution, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education shall assist in the development of institutional contract and lease-purchase financing proposals for construction or acquisition of facilities. At the discretion of institution officials, institutions may proceed independently to develop contract and lease- purchase financing proposals for facilities construction or acquisition provided the proposals are developed in accordance with Board policies R220, R710 and applicable procedures contained in this policy.

**4.3 Procedural Requirements for Institutions Entering into Contract and Lease-purchase Agreements:** Approval for acquisition of facilities through contract and lease-purchase agreements, including energy service agreements, are subject to the following procedural requirements:

**4.3.1** Obtain Board approval in concept for each facility construction project through the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Board based on documentation of the need for the project and its compatibility with and inclusion in the current institutional facilities master plan. This approval must be sought and obtained prior to or simultaneously with approval to seek financing.

**4.3.2** Obtain Board approval to seek contract or lease-purchase financing for the construction project or facility acquisition through the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Board, providing a description of the project and an initial plan for payment. When scheduling permits, approval to seek financing shall be obtained prior to the steps set forth in 4.3.3. When scheduling requirements are urgent, steps set forth in 4.3.3 may be initiated prior to obtaining Board approval to seek financing.

**4.3.3** Obtain outside professional advice (e.g., appointment of legal counsel by the Attorney General, selection of a financial advisor, etc.) as needed.

**4.3.4** Obtain Board authorization through the Finance and Facilities Committee for issuance of the contract or lease-purchase agreement. The final agreement shall be reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General to ascertain that the specific proposal complies with current applicable law. The institution shall submit to the Board current

plans for payment and up-to-date financial feasibility analysis with the proposed authorizing resolution. When possible, the contract or lease- purchase agreement, related documentation, and financial feasibility data shall be submitted to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for review at least 15 days prior to Board consideration for approval.

**4.4 Procurement of Financial Services:** Institutional procurement of all financial services relating to financing issues shall be made in compliance with [Utah Code Title 63G, Chapter 6a, \*Utah Procurement Code\*](#).

**4.5 Responsibility of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to Review Documentation:** Prior to Board consideration of any lease-purchase agreement the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education shall review the applicable contract or lease-purchase documentation and evaluate up-to-date financial data relating to the financial feasibility of the proposed financial agreement in order to be available to address any financial concerns the Board may have.

**4.6 Submission of an Annual Report of Long-term Contract and Lease-purchase Debt.** The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education shall include information about each applicable contract and lease purchase agreement in the annual bonded indebtedness report submitted to the Board which summarizes institutional and system long-term indebtedness (see R590-3.7).

#### **R587.5 Policy – Capital and Operating Lease Financing of Major Equipment**

**Items:** Acquisition of major equipment items (tangible assets) and computer software (intangible assets) using capitalized and operating leases must conform to established institutional policies and procedures approved by institutional Boards of Trustees and must be accounted for in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.