Joint Meeting of State Board of Regents, State Board of Education, Legislative Higher Education and Public Education Appropriations Subcommittees, and Legislative Education Interim Committee (July 10, 2008)
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JOINT MEETING WITH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION,
LEGISLATIVE HIGHER AND PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES,
AND EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE
SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY, CEDAR CITY, UTAH
JULY 10, 2008

Minutes

Regents Present
Jed H. Pitcher, Chair
Bonnie Jean Beesley, Vice Chair
Jerry C. Atkin
Janet C. Cannon
Rosanita Cespedes
France A. Davis
Katharine B. Garff
Patti Harrington
Meghan Holbrook
Basim Motiwala
Anthony W. Morgan
Josh M. Reid
John H. Zenger

Regents Excused
Greg Haws
David J. Jordan
Nolan E. Karras
Marlon O. Snow

Also attending were Teresa Theurer and Joel Wright, who had been nominated to the State Board of Regents but not yet confirmed by the Utah State Senate.

Office of the Commissioner
David L. Buhler, Interim Commissioner
Joyce Cottrell, Executive Secretary
Troy Caserta, Accounting Officer
David S. Doty, Assistant Commissioner and Director of Policy Studies
Kimberly Henrie, Assistant Commissioner for Budget and Finance
Stephen Hess, Chief Information Officer
Spencer Jenkins, Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs
Phyllis C. Safman, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs
Mark H. Spencer, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Facilities
Lucille T. Stoddard, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs
Gary S. Wixom, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs

Institutional Presidents
Michael T. Benson, Southern Utah University
Mike King, College of Eastern Utah
F. Ann Millner, Weber State University
Stephen D. Nadauld, Dixie State College
William A. Sederburg, Utah Valley University
Richard L. White, Utah College of Applied Technology
Representatives of the Media
Lisa Schencker, *Salt Lake Tribune*
Amy Stewart, *Deseret News*

In addition, members of the State Board of Education, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and Education Interim Committee were present, as well as legislative staff and members of the State Office of Education.

The morning session focused on public education. The luncheon session was a joint meeting of legislators, Governor’s Office, and representatives of public education and higher education. Gayle McKeachnie, Kristen Cox, Christine Kearl, Dixie Allen and Janet Cannon reported on the “SMART Sessions” held by the 21st Century Workforce Initiative.

Commissioner Buhler introduced Dr. Kim Clark, President of Brigham Young University-Idaho, who was the keynote speaker. Dr. Clark addressed the challenges of higher education (quality, access and affordability), BYU-Idaho’s Three Imperatives (1-Improve the quality of every aspect of the student experience, 2-Serve more students, and 3-Lower the relative cost of education), and the three Key Initiatives of his administration, which he identified as The Learning Model, Peer Instruction, and Online Education. He then described experiences with each of those initiatives and the successes BYU-Idaho has experienced as a result. (Dr. Clark’s PowerPoint presentation is available on the Regents’ web site at www.utahsbr.edu, under Reports and Presentations.) President Clark responded to questions from those present.

Following Dr. Clark’s remarks, Commissioner Dave Buhler and Superintendent Patti Harrington reported briefly that the two systems are working together to work out the “kinks” in funding for concurrent enrollment. They noted the quality of classes taught in the high schools must be the same as the same classes taught on USHE campuses. The next item on the agenda was a panel of Education Deans (Dr. Richard Young from Brigham Young University, Dr. Michael Hardman from the University of Utah, and Dr. Carol Strong from Utah State University), facilitated by Assistant Commissioner Phyllis Safman. Each of the panelists discussed the programs offered at his/her institution. They noted the great collaboration among the Deans of Education. Following the individual presentations, the panelists responded to questions.

The afternoon session focused on higher education issues. Commissioner Buhler and Associate Commissioner Mark Spencer reported on funded student target levels and reviewed funding methods used by other states. Assistant Commissioner Dave Doty reported on efforts to attract/recruit/retain students to higher education institutions. Staff also discussed higher education’s efforts to meet employer demands in targeted areas.

The joint meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. All participants were invited to tour the Southwest Applied Technology Campus.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
Minutes

Regents Present
Jed H. Pitcher, Chair
Bonnie Jean Beesley, Vice Chair
Jerry C. Atkin
Rosanita Cespedes
France A. Davis
Katharine B. Garff
Meghan Holbrook
Basim Motiwala
Anthony W. Morgan
Josh M. Reid
John H. Zenger

Regents Excused
Janet C. Cannon
Patti Harrington
David J. Jordan
Nolan E. Karras
Marlon O. Snow

Also attending were Teresa Theurer and Joel Wright, who had been nominated to the State Board of Regents but not yet confirmed by the Utah State Senate.

Regents Harrington and Cannon attended the Legislative Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee meeting, occurring concurrently with the Board of Regents meeting.

Office of the Commissioner
David L. Buhler, Interim Commissioner
Joyce Cottrell, Executive Secretary
David S. Doty, Assistant Commissioner and Director of Policy Studies
Kimberly Henrie, Assistant Commissioner for Budget and Finance
Stephen Hess, Chief Information Officer
Spencer Jenkins, Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs
Phyllis C. Safman, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs
Mark H. Spencer, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Facilities
Lucille T. Stoddard, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs
Gary S. Wixom, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

University of Utah
Fred C. Esplin, Vice President for Institutional Advancement/University Relations
Paul T. Brinkman, Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning
Chuck Wight, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
Utah State University
Raymond Coward, Executive Vice President and Provost
David Cowley, Associate Vice President for Financial Services/Controller
Michael J. Kennedy, Special Assistant to the President for Federal and State Relations
Michelle B. Larson, Assistant Provost
Sydney M. Peterson, Chief of Staff

Weber State University
F. Ann Millner, President
Brad Mortensen, Vice President for University Advancement

Southern Utah University
Michael T. Benson, President
Rod Decker, Interim Provost
Chase Palmer, Graduate Assistant to the President
Gregory Stauffer, Chief of Staff

Snow College
Bradley A. Winn, Academic Vice President

Dixie State College
Stephen D. Nadauld, Interim President
Donna Dillingham Evans, Vice President of Academic Services
Donald R. Hinton, Dean of Education, Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
Stanley J. Plewe, Vice President of College Services
Shandon Gubler, Chair, DSC Board of Trustees

College of Eastern Utah
Mike King, Interim President

Utah Valley University
William A. Sederburg, President
Cameron Martin, Special Assistant to the President
Loretta Palmer, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Research and International Planning

Salt Lake Community College
Joe Peterson, Vice President of Instruction
Dana Van Dyke, Budget Director

Utah College of Applied Technology
Richard L. White, President
Jared Haines, Vice President of Academic and Student Services
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Student Leaders  
Dani Hansen, Dixie State College  
Andrew Hardman, College of Eastern Utah  
Steele Kizerian, Brigham Young University  
Jon McNaughton, Southern Utah University  
Andrew Nelson, Salt Lake Community College  
Patrick Reimherr, University of Utah  
Daniel Schwab, Weber State University  
Kelly Stowell, Director, Utah Student Association  
Joseph Watkins, Utah Valley University  

Other Guests  
Steven Allred, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
Representative Mel Brown, Utah State Legislature  
Brad Cook, Chief Executive Officer, Higher Colleges of Technology, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Gordon Crabtree, Executive Director, University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics  
Representative Kory M. Holdaway, Utah State Legislature  
Kelly Murdock, Wells Fargo  
John Sutherland, Chair, Technology Initiative Advisory Board (by telephone)  
Blake Wade, Ballard Spahr

Following a breakfast meeting with President Benson and the Southern Utah University Board of Trustees, the Regents met in Committee of the Whole. Chair Jed Pitcher called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. He thanked President Benson and his staff for their gracious hospitality. Chair Pitcher excused Regents Karras, Jordan, Snow and Haws and announced that Regents Harrington and Cannon were meeting with the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee, along with members of the State Board of Education. Chair Pitcher introduced Regents France Davis and Basim Motiwala. He also recognized Teresa Theurer and Joel Wright, who had been nominated for appointment to the Board of Regents. They will be confirmed by the Senate in August and officially welcomed to the Board in September. Chair Pitcher acknowledged President Sederburg, who was appointed Commissioner earlier in the week. He also noted that this was Regent Reid's last meeting as a Regent. He will be missed. Chair Pitcher acknowledged the presence of Representatives Mel Brown and Kory Holdaway.

Administration of Oath of Office

The Oath of Office was administered to France A. Davis and Basim Motiwala, the newest members of the State Board of Regents. Chair Pitcher asked Regents Davis and Motiwala to briefly explain their background. Regent Davis is Pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Salt Lake City. He said he was delighted to have the opportunity to serve on the Board of Regents. His experience with higher education dates back to the urging of his father, who was able to complete only a third grade education. He wanted all of his children to do better. Pastor Davis said he had taught classes at the University of Utah in 1972 and had been a part of the University since then. He still teaches a course in African-American Studies as an adjunct instructor. His
desire is to provide educational opportunities for students who have finished high school. In his work as pastor, he provides tutoring and mentoring for students.

Regent Matiwala said his parents had migrated to America from Pakistan. He attended the University of Utah, where he enjoyed participating in student government. He recently took his MCAT exams and is looking forward to a career in medicine. He said he looked forward to representing Utah’s students on the Board of Regents.

Report of the Joint Board Meeting

Chair Pitcher asked Commissioner Buhler to review briefly the joint meetings the previous day with the State Board of Education, Legislative Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and the Education Interim Committee. Commissioner Buhler reported the meetings the previous day were under the direction of the Legislature; Higher education and public education officials were invited to be their guests. The Commissioner commented on the funding formula discussion and gave some background. He invited Representative Holdaway to comment briefly.

Announcements

Chair Pitcher reviewed the assignments to Board committees for the 2008-2009 year. Vice Chair Beesley announced assignments to the Presidential Resource and Review Teams and the various UCAT Boards of Directors for the coming year.

Chair Pitcher recognized the student body officers present and asked them to introduce themselves. He then reviewed the contents of the Regents’ folders and announced that the October 24 Board of Regents meeting would be held at Utah Valley University.

The Regents were dismissed to their respective committees at 9:35 a.m. and reconvened in Committee of the Whole at 11:15 a.m.

Reports of Board Committees

**Finance, Facilities and Accountability Committee** (Regent Jerry C. Atkin, Chair)

*Policy R562, Non-Lapsing Balances* (Tab G). Chair Atkin reported the policy was intended to set acceptable benchmarks for non-lapsing balances. Institutions were directed to carry forward at least four percent, but no more than seven percent of appropriated funds for special projects that could not be funded in one academic year. The Council of Presidents agreed on the parameters. Exceptions were allowed, under special, justifiable circumstances. **Chair Atkin moved approval of Policy R562, Non-Lapsing Balances.** Regent Reid seconded the motion. Regent Morgan asked if capital funds appropriated but not spent were funded separately. Associate Commissioner Spencer said funds reserved for capital projects were not to be included in the non-lapsing balances. He noted E&G money includes plant funds. **Chair Atkin amended his**
motion to include a check to see if the word “appropriated” was used accurately. Regent Reid accepted the amendment. Vote was taken, and the amended motion carried unanimously. [Staff has checked and has agreed to use the term ‘appropriated operating funds.’]

University of Utah – Resolution Approving the Issuance of Hospital Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2008A (Tab H). Chair Atkin reported a refunding amount of $23 million was authorized a few months ago to substitute a variable-rate bond with a fixed-rate bond. The proposal is to replace the variable-rate bond with another variable-rate bond secured by a letter of credit from a bank (65 basis points/year, 1½ percent). Chair Atkin noted that many times the short-term rate is advantageous. Also, the University of Utah has short-term assets in variable bonds to offset this liability. Attached to the memo for Tab H were a summary of the events leading up to this request and a financing summary, both prepared by Kelly Murdock, Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo. Chair Atkin moved approval of the resolution to approve the Hospital Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2008A. Regent Zenger seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Southern Utah University – Campus Master Plan (Tab I). Chair Atkin referred to the 20-year campus master plan which was distributed to all Regents. President Benson said there had been a high level of community involvement and cooperation with the development of the master plan. It was a very productive and meaningful process. He asked Vice President Greg Stauffer to comment. Dr. Stauffer said the master plan was based on SUU’s three-prong strategic plan: outreach, academic excellence, and residential campus. It recognizes SUU’s role as Utah’s private-public university. He expressed appreciation for the help of DFCM staff in preparing the master plan. The group used the following planning assumptions: SUU must retain its personalized learning environment, and the residential campus experience must be increased. Also, FTE was projected for 20 years, including distance learning and off-campus programs. Dr. Stauffer remarked that the city of Cedar City was undergoing its general plan at the same time SUU was doing its master planning. The new plan resulted in a greater emphasis on pedestrian access. Chair Atkin commended SUU officials for their work and moved approval of SUU’s Campus Master Plan. Regent Holbrook seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

College of Eastern Utah – Sale of Institutional Residence (Tab J). Chair Atkin said the current institutional residence at CEU was old and required constant updating and improvements. It is also designed poorly for hosting institutional events, and appliances and fixtures were dated. College officials propose to build a new institutional residence on College-owned property, which will better meet the needs of a college president. The Regents’ final approval of a new residence will be reserved until such time as they receive recommendations from consultants who are currently studying the future of CEU. Chair Atkin moved approval of the sale of the CEU Institutional Residence. Regent Davis seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Consent Calendar, Finance Committee (Tab K). On motion by Chair Atkin and second by Regent Davis, the following items were approved on the Finance Committee’s Consent Calendar:

A. USHE – 2008-2009 Appropriated Operating Budgets
B. Snow College – Purchase of Property Contiguous to Campus
USHE – 2008-2009 Information Technology Strategic Plan (Tab L). Chair Atkin said the committee had discussed this report in detail. He expressed appreciation to Steve Hess for the plan and for his report to the committee. The Regents are fortunate to have Steve as the System CIO as well as CIO for the University of Utah. Chair Atkin said this was an excellent plan. Vice Chair Beesley asked if the plan contained contingency plans for such events as the recent breach of security at the University of Utah. Chair Atkin responded in the affirmative. In addition, the plan contains a contingency for emergency disasters. Associate Commissioner Spencer said System resources could be used to help any institution. He also commended Dr. Hess for the very comprehensive plan. 

Chair Atkin moved approval of the USHE Information Technology Strategic Plan for 2008-2009. Regent Davis seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Update on Institutional Health Plan Changes for 2008-2009 (Tab M). Chair Atkin said the committee had concluded that this was an excellent plan and that good changes have been made in the last five years.

Scope Definitions and Schedule for Campus IT Audits (Year Two) (Tab N). The USHE Security Assessment Team audited systems and networks at USHE institutions last year and provided an overall assessment. Each institution was presented with a list of recommendations for improvement. The proposed assessment for 2008-2009 will determine if the institutions are making the recommended changes and will provide a more in-depth assessment at each institution to further identify IT security risks.

USHE – Annual Research Grants Report (Tab O). Chair Atkin said this agenda item had been deferred until the September 5 Board meeting.

Dixie State College – Action of Regents’ Executive Committee – Property Purchase (Tab P). Chair Atkin reported the Regents’ Executive Committee had met and approved the purchase of an existing home to be used as an Institutional Residence for Dixie State College. He said it was a good buy on a very nice property.

Academic, CTE and Student Success (‘Programs’) Committee (Regent Katharine B. Garff, Chair)

Weber State University – Bachelor of Science Degree in Athletic Therapy (Tab B). Chair Garff reported Provost Michael Vaughan and Valerie Herzog, Director of Athletic Training, had made an excellent presentation to the committee. WSU currently offers two academic tracks in Athletic Training Education – the Clinical Track and the Scientific Track. Students in the Scientific Track are not eligible to sit for the Board of Certification exam but may choose to enter a variety of allied health care fields. The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) notified University officials that they would no longer accredit a specific track, only degree programs. Therefore, the Scientific Track has been separated into a distinct degree. The current curriculum will remain intact. Chair Garff moved approval of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Athletic Therapy at Weber State University. Regent Cespedes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Weber State University – Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Dance Education (Tab C). Chair Garff said Provost Vaughan and Amanda Sowerby, Assistant Professor of Dance, had presented this proposal to the committee. The program will share curriculum and resources with the University’s College of Education. The Dance Education program combines study in dance pedagogy, choreography, history and performance with secondary education requirements and prepares students for secondary licensure. Two new
courses will be developed (Music for Dance and Dance Kinesiology) to complete the Dance Education curriculum. The program will be housed in the Department of Performing Arts. Chair Garff moved approval of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Degrees in Dance Education at Weber State University. Regent Zenger seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Salt Lake Community College – Associate of Applied Science Degree in Interior Design (Tab D). Chair Garff said this program would be offered through the Architectural Technology Department. Students will be trained to assist in the interior design of private homes, public buildings and commercial areas. There is high student and industry demand for this degree. A recent Workforce Services Report projected the annual labor demand for Interior Designers will grow by 70 new positions and 20 replacement positions each year. Chair Garff moved approval of an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Interior Design at Salt Lake Community College, seconded by Regent Beesley. The motion carried.

Consent Calendar, Programs Committee (Tab E). On motion by Chair Garff and second by Regent Beesley, the following items were approved on the Programs Committee’s Consent Calendar:

A. Dixie State College – Student Media Center
B. Salt Lake Community College – Certificate of Completion in Fashion Design

Information Calendar, Programs Committee (Tab F). The committee reviewed the following items, which did not require Regent approval:

A. Utah State University –
   1. Name Change: College of Education to the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
   2. Department Restructure: Department of Economics in the Huntsman School of Business to the Department of Applied Economics and the Department of Economics and Finance
   3. Emphasis Name Change: Human Development Emphasis to Child Development
   4. Name Change: Department of Instructional Technology to the Department of Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences
   5. Reorganization of Minors in the Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences
B. Weber State University
   1. Minor in International Politics
   2. Minor in Public Administration

Strategic Planning and Communications Committee (Regent Meghan Z. Holbrook, Chair)

Campus Retention Plan Reports – Dixie State College and Southern Utah University (Tab Q). Chair Holbrook said there is no uniform System standard to measure retention at USHE institutions. Regent Morgan said he was pleased that the Commissioner’s Office had recently hired an Institutional Research Director. This was an important objective of the Regents. Uniformity of data is necessary for understanding of retention rates and to progress toward common goals. Dixie: President Nadauld reported that retention rates were above average for Western States community colleges, although there is still work to be done. He outlined a number of initiatives college officials had made to improve retention. The administrative structure was reorganized to
identify one person responsible for enrollment management, which includes retention. He also supported the idea of a possible uniform reporting system, because at present there is no uniform system for reporting data. Dixie’s goal is to provide a four-year culture, to provide additional on-campus housing and opportunities for additional four-year degrees. That should also help to improve retention. Chair Holbrook noted the college had also added an early warning system to let students know early in the year if they were in academic difficulty, after which resources would be provided to help those students.

Provost Decker said university officials were pleased about the increase in retention at SUU over the past four years. The university has had a 11 percent increase in retaining freshmen to return as sophomores. This is due to efforts in enrollment management and the Student Success Center. Other key factors were academic preparation, campus experience, diversity experience, financial arrangements, additional support initiatives and new initiatives to help retain students. SUU is also supportive of a consistent data reporting system. Chair Holbrook said much work has been done to get the institutions to this level.

Regents’ Scholarship Administrative Rule and Legislative Feedback on Scholarship Criteria (Tab R). Chair Holbrook expressed appreciation to Senator Hillyard for sponsoring the bill to provide this opportunity to Utah students and for pushing forward until the legislation was enacted. Assistant Commissioner Doty explained that the Policy R609 was approved in May, setting out the criteria for the Regents’ Scholarship program. The Legislative Administrative Rules Committee asked the Commissioner’s staff to appear and put this policy through the legislative rule-making process because private institutions are eligible for these funds. This has been done, and we are in the feedback period of time. Staff were also asked to respond to the criteria, specifically, should students be allowed to not take four years of math in high school if they have completed AP calculus? He referred to the proposed amendment to R609, which would allow students to waive credit requirements in a specified area by completing an AP course. Based on the applications received to date, if only the original criteria were to be applied, another 40 percent of funding would be required. Assistant Commissioner Doty asked the Regents to consider the implications and to provide direction for the staff.

Chair Holbrook referred to a national summit held in April. Utah is the only state with this kind of scholarship, out of the 24 WICHE state scholarship programs. Regent Morgan said he had seriously considered allowing AP students to “opt in” to this program, but the budget does not allow it this year. Senator Hillyard shared his thoughts and recommendation, which was to stay with the original criteria. If additional funding is appropriated next year, the criteria could be expanded to include AP students. Dr. Doty said he would resubmit the administrative rule without the AP exemption. The policy will be identical to that approved in May. Regent Garff asked if the criteria would accept credit for foreign languages taken in junior high school. She asked Dr. Doty if he would consider not limiting the years in which courses are taken. Assistant Commissioner Doty said he would consider that and other modifications next year after the data have been collected. Credits will be used to evaluate qualifications. Chair Holbrook moved that the Board endorse the previous criteria for FY 2008 and that Policy R609 not be amended at this time. Regent Zenger seconded the motion, which carried.

Report on Legislative Higher Education and Applied Technology Governance Task Force (Tab S). Commissioner Buhler referred to the joint memo in the Regents’ folders from Chair Pitcher and Don Ipson, Chair of the UCAT Board of Trustees. He noted the actual memo to the task force had been printed on blank
paper, not on Regents’ letterhead. The task force asked that the Regents and the UCAT Board come up with an acceptable compromise and report back on July 15. Representatives of two boards met and agreed that statewide articulation for UCAT should be pursued. This will require an additional person on the Commissioner’s staff. Articulation agreements should not be limited to a specific region, but should be available statewide. Higher Education officials believe that UCAT should remain a part of the Utah System of Higher Education, but UCAT officials disagree. Commissioner Buhler said higher education is committed to make articulation work, either way. Regarding governance, the group tried to explore a number of options but were not able to come to agreement. Chair Holbrook reported everyone had come together with the spirit of working cooperatively to improve the delivery of higher education in the state. The meeting was very collegial. President White said he appreciated the opportunity to meet with the smaller group. Commissioner Buhler invited the Regents to attend the task force meeting at 8:30 a.m. on July 15, in Room 450 of the State Capitol. Chair Pitcher strongly urged the Regents to attend the meeting, if possible. UCAT has great representation in those task force meetings.

Report on the Governor’s 21st Century Workforce Initiative (Tab T). Commissioner Buhler said this had been reported extensively the previous day. WSU Vice President Brad Mortensen reported that two separate groups were formed (finance and governance), each of which have five to six projects, with project leaders, on which they will be working this summer. Additional “SMART” sessions will be held in the next several weeks.

Engineering, Computer Science and Technology 2008-2009 Funding Recommendations from the Technology Initiative Advisory Board

John Sutherland, TIAB Chair, connected by phone to report to the group, and apologized that he could not have been at the meeting in person. Dr. Sutherland briefly gave the background of the TIAB Board. The board’s goal is to graduate more engineers to fill the industry need. The demand for engineers appears to be increasing in this state. Dr. Sutherland reported he had met with the Engineering Deans each year to determine need. The Legislature this year appropriated only one-time funding of $250,000. The Engineering Deans indicated they need more money for recruitment and retention, so that was the recommendation for the one-time funding this year (see Tab U). Dr. Sutherland noted WSU had not submitted a request, since they had received funding for an Engineering Initiative directly from the Legislature. Commissioner Buhler thanked Dr. Sutherland and his board. They have great credibility with the Legislature. This has been a very successful initiative, one which has been industry-driven. Funding from the past has received god support. Regent Atkin moved approval of the TIAB funding recommendations. Regent Reid seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Chair Pitcher thanked Dr. Sutherland for his participation.

General Consent Calendar

On motion by Regent Reid and second by Regent Holbrook, the following items were unanimously approved on the Regents’ General Consent Calendar (Tab V):

A. Minutes – Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held May 30, 2008, at the Regents’ Offices in Salt Lake City, Utah
B. Grant Proposals (On file in the Commissioner’s Office)

C. Grant Awards

1. University of Utah – Department of Energy/Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; “Center for Simulation of Accidental Fires & Explosions”; $2,598,312. David W. Pershing, Principal Investigator.


State of the University

President Benson gave a PowerPoint presentation, demonstrating the continuing growth of Southern Utah University. He expressed appreciation for the community’s involvement in the university’s strategic planning process. He also acknowledged the hard work of his cabinet. President Benson announced that Dr. Brad Cook would be joining SUU administration in Fall 2009 as Provost. He thanked Dr. Rod Decker for extending his retirement date for another year until Dr. Cook finishes his assignment in the United Arab Emirates. Some of the highlights of President Benson’s presentation included the addition of two new master’s programs during the past year. Women’s volleyball was added as a Division I sport. SUU now has 17 intercollegiate programs – ten of which were added in the last five years.

New facilities included a Teacher Education Building, the restoration of Old Main, and the new Carter Carillon. New student housing will be ready for occupancy this fall. A new Center for the Arts and Education
is planned, as well as a new Globe Theatre for Shakespeare productions. A new Hispanic Center for Academic Excellence was established on campus; President Benson thanked Regent Cespedes for her participation. The Capital Campaign continues; $15.5 million was raised last year – the largest amount for one year in the school’s history, and employee giving increased to 85 percent. SUU remains committed to retaining a small class size. President Benson reported nearly one-third of SUU’s student athletes had GPAs of 3.5 or better.

The University will entertain some distinguished guests in the coming months (Senator Harry Reid, Elie Wiesel, and Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services). President Benson noted SUU alum, Jill Stevens (“GI Jill”), had written a book about her experiences as a Miss America contestant while continuing to serve in the military. He thanked Provost Decker and DSC Vice President Donna Dillingham-Evans for working collaboratively to forge partnerships between Dixie State College and Southern Utah University to offer 150 credits in St. George. President Benson expressed his appreciation for the people with whom he works. He thanked the Regents for coming to the SUU campus.

Report of the Chair and Report of the Commissioner

The written reports were provided in the Regents’ folders.

Resolution of Appreciation

Chair Pitcher presented Regent Josh Reid with a Resolution of Appreciation for his service to the State Board of Regents. He will be greatly missed. Although he served on the Board for only three years, he participated on a number of committees and assignments. Regent Atkin moved adoption of the Resolution of Appreciation for Regent Reid. Regent Holbrook seconded the motion, and the Resolution was adopted unanimously. Regent Reid said he had recently moved his family to Nevada. Leaving the Board of Regents was a hard decision. Regent Reid said his parents had taught him that the world is run by the people who show up. This has been a meaningful experience, and many friendships were made as a result. Regent Holbrook said it had been a gift to work with Regent Reid.

Chair Pitcher recognized Dave Pitcher and thanked him for doing an outstanding job as Interim Commissioner. He noted WSU has an Olympic athlete from Morgan County who will go to China for the Summer Olympic Games. He asked President Millner to extend the Regents’ congratulations.

Adjournment

Regent Atkin moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Regent Zenger. The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.
At its luncheon meeting, the Regents received a written report of the Board’s Self-Evaluation from Dr. Jeff Hockaday, who was hired as a consultant to conduct the Self-Evaluation in accordance with Policy R123, which was adopted in April 2007.

Joyce Cottrell CPS
Executive Secretary

Date Approved