

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY**

March 21, 1997

Board Members Present

Kenneth G. Anderton, Chair
Pamela J. Atkinson
Aileen H. Clyde, Vice Chair
Ian M. Cumming
Douglas S. Foxley
W. Brett Graham
John B. Goddard
David J. Grant
Larzette G. Hale
L. Brent Hoggan
Karen H. Huntsman
Evelyn B. Lee
Clifford S. LeFevre
Paul S. Rogers
Jay B. Taggart
Dale O Zabriskie

Office of the Commissioner

Cecelia H. Foxley, Commissioner
Joyce Cottrell CPS, Executive Secretary
Patricia S. Crane, Assistant Commissioner for Government and Media Relations

Also in attendance were President Sherratt, various members of the SUU community, members of the Southern Utah University Presidential Search Committee, David Jordan, Chair of the SUU Board of Trustees, and Dixie College President Robert Huddleston.

Chair Anderton called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. He introduced himself to the members of the SUU community and briefly explained the presidential search process. He introduced Regent LeFevre, who chaired the Presidential Search Committee, and thanked the other members of the committee for their presence.

Regent LeFevre expressed his appreciation to the search committee for their time and effort over the past several months. He said 109 applications and nominations from throughout the nation were received for the SUU presidency. Regent LeFevre said with honor he moved that Dr. Steven D. Bennion be appointed the next President of Southern Utah University. Regents Atkinson and Grant seconded the motion. The ensuing affirmative vote was unanimous.

Chair Anderton said it was his great pleasure to welcome Dr. Steven Bennion and his wife, Marjorie, as the new President and First Lady of SUU. (Applause)

President Bennion said this would represent a dramatic change in their lives — one to which they looked forward with enthusiasm. He had been very impressed with the search committee, the Regents, and the people of this institution and community. The Bennions have been part of the Utah System of Higher Education before and were honored to return. They have loved working at Ricks College for the past eight years and had mixed emotions about leaving there, but it was a thrill and an honor to have the opportunity to come to a wonderful university. He acknowledged that it would be hard to follow President Sherratt, who served so well and with such dedication and distinction. President Sherratt has done much for Southern Utah, as well as the University, and President Bennion said he saluted him for all he has done.

President Bennion committed to the SUU Board of Trustees, the Board of Regents, the University, and the community that he would do his very best to build on the great traditions of this institution. His grandfather, Milton R. Bennion,

was the first president of what is now Southern Utah University.

Dr. Bennion said he and his wife love working with students. The joy of their lives has been to work with wonderful young people on residential campuses. They have also enjoyed working with wonderful faculty and staff and hope to lead this university to new heights. He expressed his gratitude for being chosen, and said he looked forward to getting better acquainted with everyone.

Chair Anderton invited Mrs. Bennion to speak. She echoed her husband's sentiments and said she was honored and thrilled to be returning to Utah and looked forward to getting acquainted and to their move to Cedar City.

President Bennion responded to questions from the press and community. Former Senator Dixie Leavitt welcomed the Bennions to Cedar City on behalf of the community.

Regent Zabriskie moved that the meeting be adjourned, and it was seconded by Regent Cumming. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Joyce Cottrell CPS
Secretary to the Board of Regents