## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL SEPTEMBER 30, 1997

## **Board Members Present**

**Board Members Excused** 

Kenneth G. Anderton, Chair Aileen H. Clyde, Vice Chair Ian M. Cumming Andrew Croshaw David J. Grant Larzette G. Hale L. Brent Hoggan Charles E. Johnson David J. Jordan Evelyn B. Lee Victor L. Lund Paul S. Rogers Jay B. Taggart Dale O Zabriskie Pamela J. Atkinson Karen H. Huntsman

## Office of the Commissioner

Cecelia H. Foxley, Commissioner Joyce Cottrell CPS, Executive Secretary Richard O. Davis, Asst. Commissioner for Student Loan Finance and Deputy Executive Dir., LPP Dale C. Hatch, Deputy Executive Director for Administration, USLP Fred R. Hunsaker, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Facilities Chalmers Gail Norris, Associate Commissioner for Student Financial Aid Michael A. Petersen, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs Norman C. Tarbox, Assistant Commissioner for Finance and Facilities

## **Others Present**

Thomas C. Anderson, Office of the Attorney General Steven D. Bennion, President, Southern Utah University Carl Empey, Zions Bank Robert L. Gilliland, Vice President for University Extension, Utah State University G. Jay Gogue, Provost, Utah State University John Hupalo, Smith Barney Grace S. Jones, President, College of Eastern Utah Terry Rock, First Security Bank Lucille Stoddard, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Utah Valley State College Blake Wade, Ballard Spahr and Ingersoll

Chair Anderton called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the special meeting.

<u>University Hospital Refunding Revenue Bonds.</u> Associate Commissioner Hunsaker said the University of Utah had requested a special meeting of the Board to discuss this item (Tab A). Since the meeting was scheduled, there has been a delay in getting the bond rating from the rating agency, so the University had requested that this item be delayed until the regular November meeting of the Board.

<u>College of Eastern Utah — Blanding Building Acquisitions.</u> President Jones said Assistant Attorney General Anderson has been working for the college to assume loans for these acquisitions without additional costs, as explained in Tab B. Mr. Anderson said the Community Impact Board (CIB) has now agreed that we may take that property from Blanding on a purchase agreement. This is agreeable to Blanding. The payments will be made directly to CIB. The college will own the property and CIB will give to the city of Blanding its resolution that if they apply for additional support, this \$90,000 obligation will not count against the city; it will be an obligation to CEU. There may be minor legal charges for the CIB attorneys, but that should be less than \$1000. Regent Cumming moved, seconded by Regent Clyde, that CEU be authorized to acquire the property. The motion carried unanimously.

Student Financial Aid — Approving Resolution, SBR Student Loan Revenue Bonds, Series 1997E and 1997F. Regent Lee said this is a recommendation to the Board from the Student Finance Subcommittee. Regent Goddard worked on this before leaving for a cruise to the Greek Islands. This will be used to fund projected loan purchases for the remainder of fiscal 1997-98. It was determined that the Board would best be served by issuing a combination of taxable and tax-exempt bonds. Parameters were shown on page 2 of Agenda Tab C. Regent Lee moved approval of the approving resolution for student loan revenue bonds series 1997E and 1997F. Regent Cumming asked why the maximum interest rate was so high. Associate Commissioner Norris said these were variable rate bonds, which were expected to be around eight percent. The 18% figure would set a limit that the interest rate could not exceed. Mr. Wade said these bonds were federally taxable so it is anticipated they will bear a higher rate of interest than tax-exempt bonds in the past. The maximum rate established in the past has been in the 14-16% range for tax-exempt rates whereas the current rates are higher because they are federally taxable. Regent Cumming seconded the motion.

Regent Johnson asked why we were selling variable rates on the taxable bonds. Associate Commissioner Norris said the student loans we buy with these bonds are variable rates. Our rate of return is protected by a special allowance provided by federal law. Mr. Hupalo explained that the rate of return will be equal to the treasury bill plus 3.1% during the repayment period. Mr. Wade said we have the ability to call these bonds at any time if necessary. Associate Commissioner Norris said we could also call the bonds if there are no loans to buy.

Regent Lund asked what amount was being refunded, and what the rates were on fixed amounts. Mr. Wade said this extends a portion of tax-exempt bonds which will mature on November 1, 1997. Federal law allows us to refund those bonds and extend those for additional years to take advantage of tax-exempt financing. Regent Lund asked if legal opinions had been reviewed. The underwriting fee of .85% on a AAA bond seems high; he asked if this was in line. Mr. Hupalo said .85% is the maximum rate. It is expected that this will be under that parameter. This is a combination of fixed and variable rate bonds, yet it should be well below .85%. Mr. Wade said the .85% rate was established with the understanding that a smaller amount of bonds may be sold. If the full \$90 million were sold, the underwriting fee will be under that maximum. Mr. Anderson said he will issue an opinion at the time of closing that the Board has the statutory authority to issue the bonds. He will also be checking other documents as listed at the time of closing. Vote was taken on the motion, which carried unanimously.

Regent Zabriskie moved that the Board move into executive session to discuss real estate issues. Regent Clyde seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Chair Anderton thanked everyone for participating in this meeting. The Board moved into executive session at 8:23 a.m.

Joyce Cottrell CPS Secretary to the Board of Regents