
MINUTES OF MEETING
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
GOVERNOR'S BOARD ROOM,
UTAH STATE CAPITOL
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

February 18, 1998

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Excused

Kenneth G. Anderton
Larzette G. Hale
Jay B. Taggart

Office of the Commissioner

Cecelia H. Foxley, Commissioner
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
Joyce Cottrell CPS, Executive Secretary
Harden R. Eyring, Executive Assistant
Lou Jean Flint, Academic Affairs Officer
Max S. Lowe, Assistant Community for Applied Technology Education
Norman C. Tarbox, Assistant Commissioner for Finance and Facilities

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

University of Utah

Theodore R. Capener, Vice President for University Relations
Jerilyn S. McIntyre, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Raymond A. Haeckel, Executive Director, Government and Community
Relations
W. Ralph Hardy, Budget Director

Utah State University

George H. Emert, President
Lee H. Burke, Assistant to the President

Weber State University

Paul H. Thompson, President
Carol J. Berrey, Executive Director of Government Relations/Assistant to

the President
Marie L. Kotter, Vice President of Student Services

Southern Utah University

Steven D. Bennion, President
Michael D. Richards, Vice President for University Affairs

Snow College

Gerald J. Day, President

Dixie College

Robert C. Huddleston, President

College of Eastern Utah

Grace S. Jones, President

Utah Valley State College

Kerry D. Romesburg, President
Gilbert E. Cook, Vice President for College Relations

Salt Lake Community College

Frank W. Budd, President
Rand Johnson, Assistant to the President

Trustees

James Jardine, University of Utah
Lowell Peterson, Utah State University
Richard Richards, Weber State University
Larry Lunt, Southern Utah University
Mark Stoddard, Snow College
Maureen Booth, Dixie College
Adrien Taylor, College of Eastern Utah
Randall Mackey, Salt Lake Community College

Others Present

Shannon Bittler, SBE/SBR Joint Liaison Committee
Gary A. Carlson, Governor's Deputy for Education
Marjorie Cortez, *Deseret News*
Kathy Kapos, *Salt Lake Tribune*
Bradley A. Winn, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Utah Valley State College — Utah National Guard Lease. Chair Johnson introduced Colonel Pete Wilson and Major Larry Schmidt of the Utah National

Guard and asked them to explain the Guard's proposed lease arrangement with UVSC.

Colonel Wilson said the Utah National Guard has received \$6 million from the federal government for a joint use project to serve the college during the week and the Guard on weekends. Groundbreaking is scheduled for March 20. When the Army started the process of replacing its public armory seven years ago, Associate Commissioner Don Carpenter suggested the west side of the UVSC campus as a possible site. Colonel Wilson and Major Schmidt displayed and explained the layout of the 70,000-square-foot building. The rooms were designed to UVSC standards, not Guard standards. The building would include 12 classrooms and a 150-seat auditorium. Military Intelligence would be housed in the Guard section of the building; the Guard is looking for a garage to house their artillery.

Chair Johnson asked about the possibility of problems with the college occupying the building. The response was that in the event of a national emergency, the Guard would have priority. President Romesburg said it makes sense for the college to give up a bit of land to gain access to a new building and parking spaces. Unless there were to be a national emergency, the college does not see a downside to this partnership. Colonel Wilson said mobilization of this type of unit is typically in increments of one or two, not in large groups.

Regent Hoggan asked if tying up 6.2 acres for 100 years was the best use for this land. He also asked about O&M expenses. President Romesburg said the Guard had agreed that they would maintain and operate the building for the 100-year term of the lease. He said he thought this was the best use for this property.

Regent Cumming said he had found the lease to be confusing — although it was a lease of land, it sometimes referred to the building. Colonel Wilson said the DFCM was working on a usage agreement. The Attorney General's office has reviewed the lease with the Adjutant General's office. President Romesburg referred to section 6g of the agreement which indicated both parties were jointly to prepare a mutual use schedule for the classrooms. He said the college is getting three things in exchange for allowing the Guard to be on their property: (1) Guard assistance in ground preparation and in getting a new building on campus, (2) access to classrooms not otherwise available, and (3) access to 200 spaces of finished parking. DFCM wants to clarify who will be responsible if there were to be damage to the building as a result of the classroom use, as well as custodial costs. President Romesburg asked the Board for permission to enter into this agreement while the other details of usage were being worked out. Regent Jordan said additional language was needed which referred to parking and additional use.

Regent Grant moved approval of the proposal, subject to final review and approval by Chair Johnson. Regent Atkinson seconded the motion. Colonel Wilson said he would be leaving Sunday to make sure this is on schedule and to tie up any loose ends. Commissioner Foxley suggested separating the land agreement from the use of classrooms and parking because of the time element involved. Chair Johnson asked Regent Jordan to assist in completion of this document by Friday. The motion was approved. Chair Johnson asked Colonel Wilson to go directly to DFCM and get the changes made and brought back to the Regents as quickly as possible.

Report of the Chair

Chair Johnson said the chairs of the institutional boards of trustees were invited to attend the meeting, or to designate someone to represent them. He asked all trustees present to stand and introduce themselves. He welcomed them to the discussion.

He then recognized Lou Jean Flint, who will be retiring at the end of the month. Ms. Flint has been involved in WICHE projects, the Utah Career Teaching Scholarship program, and the annual report on women in faculty and administrative positions. He wished her happiness for a great future. Commissioner Foxley said Ms. Flint came to the Commissioner's Office when Ted Bell was Commissioner 15 years ago. She has been very flexible to take on whatever project has been assigned to her. The Commissioner expressed her great appreciation for Ms. Flint's work.

Chair Johnson noted that Ray Haeckel had been hospitalized but was back to work and in attendance at the meeting. He also noted that Associate Commissioner Gail Norris' mother had passed away the previous Friday and expressed the Board's condolences to him and his family.

Report on Meeting with Legislative Leadership

Chair Johnson said it had originally been planned for the Executive Committee of the Board to meet with Legislative Leadership to go over the faculty workload report, after which all Regents had been invited to meet with them for introductions. The Legislators had indicated they were feeling the pressure of the session and time constraints and asked Chair Johnson and Commissioner Foxley to briefly explain the workload report to them. We reported that this document was very accurate and properly reflected faculty workload in the format requested by Legislative Leadership. Because of limited time, the report on total personnel count at each institution needs to be refined and improved.

The Regents indicated that during the planning process a high priority should be placed on getting a common database for more accurate, faster reporting capabilities. Regent Lund asked if the Legislature would fund the cost of getting a common database for our institutions. Commissioner Foxley said the technology part of our budget request helps a lot but we do not yet have full funding. Regent Lund cautioned that we must have a good definition of what is required to get a common database. It will take a lot of time and a lot of money.

Regent Cumming requested that the Council of Presidents come up with an agreement as to what this will cost in time and money, plus or minus 20%, by the March Board meeting. Regent Jordan asked if Legislative Leadership understands the linkage between what they would like to get in the way of a database and the technology component of our budget request. Do they realize that additional funding this year will help us get started?

Chair Johnson said Leadership had mentioned governance and had expressed their concern about whether or not the Regents and Trustees are "where they want to be." The ensuing discussion was healthy. The planning process was discussed, and Leadership indicated they were very anxious to be involved in the process. While they want involvement, they recognized the role of the Regents in leading the effort. Commissioner Foxley said Leadership had also expressed a

desire to meet with the Regents informally to discuss issues of mutual concern, but it would probably not be possible during the session.

Chair Johnson reviewed the day's agenda and asked Regent Lund to explain the access to parking for the new American Stores Building, where he would be hosting the Regents, Presidents and Trustee Chairs for lunch. Vice Chair Clyde moved that the Board go into executive session for lunch with the Presidents and Trustees. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Foxley said the Capital Facilities Appropriations Subcommittee would be meeting in room 405 at 4:00 p.m. that afternoon, at the same time as the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee would be meeting in room 223. She said the Regents' presence, to respond to questions or to offer information, had been very meaningful with the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee. The committee felt that they had had much more involvement with the Regents than in previous years.

Budget

Process. Using a large chart, Chair Johnson reviewed the budget process, beginning with the Regents' budget request to the Governor and to the Legislature. The Governor then issued his budget request to the Legislature, after which the Legislature allocated funds to the various subcommittees. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst's recommendation for Higher Education was \$13,568,000 less than the Governor's recommendation. The \$47 million difference in Capital Facilities/Debt Service was the amount for which the Legislature has said they would rather pay cash instead of bond. In compensation, the Governor recommended a 4% compensation increase; the Fiscal Analyst has recommended 3%. \$25 million from the critical needs reserve would fund another 1% of increase.

Dr. Brad Winn, Higher Education Budget Analyst from the Governor's Office of Planning of Budget, distributed a chart showing appropriations budget allocations. Chair Johnson explained that at their meeting the previous Monday, the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee had recognized the need to go back to Executive Appropriations and let them know they had balanced what they had been given, but additional money needed to be categorized and appropriated because they had been given insufficient funding to meet higher education's needs. Executive Appropriations' response would either be to find or deny additional funding. Control would then move from the subcommittees to Executive Appropriations. This action was scheduled for February 19.

Chair Johnson briefly reviewed possible sources for additional funding:

- New revenue estimates
- Bond rather than pay cash
- Move some money from set-aside funds designated for compensation and use it for something else. (\$5 million = 1% compensation increase)

Compensation. Compensation increase for USHE faculty and staff was discussed at length. The Legislature has said 25% of the compensation increase is the

system's "proportionate share" which they expect to come from tuition. The 2.7% tuition increase which was already approved will not raise the required one-fourth of a 4% compensation increase. Regent Croshaw said the student body presidents were very concerned about the increase in compensation coming from tuition. They did not want to see the students pitted against their teachers, but they hoped tuition did not increase more than the 2.7% previously approved. Regent Croshaw said he agreed with the problem of salaries. However, the cost of tuition has increased much more than inflation. One responsibility of the Regents is to see that the students do not lose their chance for an education because of their inability to pay. Chair Johnson suggested that Regent Croshaw include this concern on his list of issues to be addressed in the planning workshop in March.

Commissioner Foxley noted that the system's first test of this expectation was two years ago when tuition was held constant. The compensation that year came out of general revenue funds. The following year tuition was raised, but it was not enough to cover 25% of the compensation increase. Legislative Leadership said one-fourth of the compensation increase must be funded through tuition. This year the Governor recommended supplementing the tuition money with general fund monies for the compensation increase. Dr. Winn said in clarification that the Governor's budget recommendation does not agree with the Legislature's standing practice that one-fourth of compensation increases should come from tuition. The Governor's request put half the tuition into compensation and half into technology.

Regent Grant asked what the Regents favored for the compensation increase. Chair Johnson said the Board historically has not taken a position, but that Representative Marty Stephens had identified three critical areas which are underfunded: Human Services, Corrections, and Higher Education. Regent Atkinson said the Board needed to keep in mind how our faculty and staff salaries compared with staff at peer institutions. She asked the presidents to speak to this issue.

All nine Presidents agreed that faculty and staff salaries were below those offered by business and industry as well as peer institutions and were a very critical issue. Regent Jordan asked the Presidents if they would be willing to support a 4% compensation increase if it meant finding the funding internally. The Presidents unanimously agreed. Chair Johnson said some of these issues would surface when he and Commissioner Foxley met with Executive Appropriations. He asked the other Regents for their guidance in preparation for that discussion.

"Hot Spots." Chair Johnson referred to the handout entitled "Higher Education Hot Spots." Commissioner Foxley distributed revised copies of the Governor's revised listing, which showed the difference between the Subcommittee's and Governor's hot spots in priority order. Chair Johnson clarified that there was a separate allocation of set-aside funds for fiscal note bills. A number of system fiscal note bills compete with our funding for hot spots.

Commissioner Foxley pointed out the comparison chart which showed the Regents' request, the Governor's recommendations and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's recommendations. The LFA has recommended a 1.1% increase on higher education's base budget. This is very low funding at a time when higher education is growing and has such critical needs. The amount allocated to the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee is very meager. There are major costs to be covered which are not now in the LFA's recommendations.

Dr. Gary Carlson noted that enrollment was flat in public education this year. The

Governor's budget took the approach that this is a time for investment in higher education. He encouraged the Regents not to forget this approach. He said this is a significant statement if the trend to reduce the percentage of state monies going to the higher education budget is going to be reversed. Chair Johnson urged Dr. Carlson also to keep this in when the Governor was working on funding allocations.

Commissioner Foxley said the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee had been very supportive. They asked USHE representatives to identify our hot spots. We presented a conservative list of \$8.5 million, which the subcommittee increased to \$10.2 million. She encouraged the Regents to contact members of Executive Appropriations, whom they know personally, between lunch and the 4:00 p.m. meeting and stress the fact that higher education needs more money. She encouraged a consistent message from the Regents, Presidents, and Trustees. Chair Johnson said many individual bills were in process for funding to individual institutions and that it was important that the Presidents let the Legislators know they were supportive of the system "hot spots."

Regent Cumming said the Regents need to be more aware throughout the year of the fiscal realities of this state. He asked for a periodic update of the issues and initiatives with which the Board is dealing. Commissioner Foxley agreed that the list would be updated.

Capital Facilities. A hand-out was distributed from the Capital Facilities budget document. Chair Johnson commended President Budd and said despite pressure from Legislators to reverse the Regents' order and move SLCC's Jordan Tech Center ahead of SUU's PE Building, President Budd had supported the existing order of SUU having the higher priority. Chair Johnson said his indication from the earlier meeting with Legislative Leadership was that the priority list for Capital Facilities was holding.

Dialogue with Governor Leavitt

Chair Johnson expressed his delight in having Governor Leavitt join the meeting. He invited the Governor to give the Regents his insight on the Legislative Session.

Fiscal Notes. Governor Leavitt said things were rapidly building to the critical point. New revenue estimates were lower than earlier projections indicated. The Governor said he was in basic agreement with the hot spots on the Regents' list. Bills with fiscal notes total \$8.2 million. All are competing directly with higher education's hot spots for the same money. He emphasized to the Regents and Presidents that this puts higher education in a compromised position. He asked that there be agreement on the fiscal note bills rather than competition, and that the Regents and Presidents mention this agreement to the Legislators with whom they met.

Commissioner Foxley said the Regents and Presidents shared the concern that higher education receive its fair share of fiscal note funding, as well as its fair share of program and project funding. The Governor said it would all boil down to how large the bond will be. In the Senate, the issue was set-aside money, which would diminish the state's capacity to fund priorities to the extent it was used for fiscal notes. The issue in the House was bonding.

Compensation. Chair Johnson asked Governor Leavitt about compensation as it relates to tuition increases. He reviewed the Board's earlier discussion and asked the Governor how this was moving along. Governor Leavitt said typically the Senate is more generous and the House more reluctant on salaries. He felt there was a strong possibility that this year the House would favor a higher increase than the Senate. The Governor's Office will continue to hold out for a 4% compensation increase. Chair Johnson pointed out that higher education is the only state agency which is being asked to participate in an increase, and the Regents do not feel this should be on the backs of the students. Regent Croshaw inquired about the position of the Governor's Office on the linkage between tuition and compensation increases. Governor Leavitt responded that the link is typical of the Legislature; it is not an automatic corollary.

Concealed Weapons. Jim Jardine, Chair of the University of Utah Board of Trustees, said because of the way the Legislative General Counsel had drafted their opinion, the University is a focus on the concealed weapons issue. He expressed his desire for this to be seen as a system issue, rather than a University of Utah issue. He requested the Governor's advice. Governor Leavitt said the Legislative General Counsel had indicated disagreement with the Governor's Counsel. At this point there was not a clear understanding of the full dynamics of the issue as it applies to higher education. The Governor said he felt it was important to offer a safe place for employees in state government: "Absent a clear understanding that we are not within the scope of the law, we will continue to uphold the present law." He cautioned that it is possible to get a concealed weapons law which would clarify the issue so narrowly that we would lose the capacity we seek to protect our employees and their safety.

Trustee Jardine said the University wanted to be consistent with the interpretation of the law from the Governor's Office. Commissioner Foxley said this was indeed a system issue. The Board of Regents has previously gone on record indicating their support of gun-free campuses. Most institutions have policies similar to that of the University of Utah. The Board feels strongly that our campuses should be weapons-free.

Western Governors University. Regent Grant asked Governor Leavitt about the progress of the Western Governors University. The Governor responded that WGU is moving at remarkable speed. Nineteen states are full members. Eligibility status for accreditation is expected soon. WGU moved the previous day into a testing process for software to make course work available and will be offering two associate degrees in the fall. About \$6 million has been raised, mostly from the private sector. WGU is in the process of formulating a long-term financing arrangement. It is a tremendous opportunity internationally. Four countries already belong, with two others (China and Nigeria) looking to join. The Governor indicated he was anxious for Utah to remain in the lead. The movement toward a Utah Electronic Community College was a good step to position our institutions to work together collaboratively.

Regent Cumming asked if an intrastate virtual university would have adverse implications for WGU. Governor Leavitt replied that many states were headed in that direction. Most are seeing WGU emerge as a major umbrella under which their individual units could set and work with alliances. The great advantage to having this is that others will be making offerings which enhance our abilities. The Governor said the world is beginning to look much more like network PCs than mainframes. Higher education has been a classic mainframe. The ability for an academically coherent aggregate is very sensible. Commissioner Foxley said UECC is a good start. The next step will be a full range of degrees.

Priorities. Regent Atkinson said Representative Marty Stephens had been quoted in the newspaper as giving his top three priorities as Human Services, Corrections and Higher Education. She asked Governor Leavitt if he agreed with these priorities. The Governor said he had priorities in all of those areas, but he was not inclined to rank them.

President Thompson asked the Governor how the Presidents and Regents could help higher education get the funding he recommended, rather than the LFA's recommendations. Governor Leavitt responded that the focus was on hot spots at that point in the Legislature. In the last few days of the session, it will boil down to the key issues already identified: The size of bond in the House and set-aside funds in the Senate. The Governor encouraged Regents and Presidents to focus on these issues, which would be the key to funding state government in Utah.

Regent Cumming asked the Governor for advice about what the Regents should consider for next year's session for funding higher education's needs. Governor Leavitt replied that Chair Johnson was highly skilled in that area. Between now and next November, the need will be to educate the legislators and legislative candidates on higher education issues. The Governor said typically Utah could expect to see a 30% turnover in the Legislature with the next election. Many newly-elected Legislators will have no background in higher education whatever.

Planning. Regent Jordan told Governor Leavitt the Board would be working on planning and "big gear" system issues in March. He asked the Governor for his recommendations of focus. Governor Leavitt said Chair Johnson and Commissioner Foxley had already invited him to submit questions and issues, which he will do after he gives the matter some additional thought. Some important considerations are: We need to identify our competitors. We need to identify the shape of our campuses in 10 or 15 years. Who will our alliance partners be? Are our campuses in the right place and doing the right thing?

Regent Grant asked Governor Leavitt if he could provide to the Regents a list of the challenges he identified at the Board of Regents meeting in Logan last June. Governor Leavitt said he would be drawing from some writing he is doing now about where he thinks higher education is headed in the next twenty years. He said he would be happy to circulate those and discuss them. He commended the Regents for their efforts to rework the USHE Master Plan.

Commissioner Foxley thanked Governor Leavitt for his efforts to increase the proportional share of state revenues going to higher education, for leading out for education in general, and for making it a high priority on his agenda. By helping Legislative Leadership see how vital this is, he is helping to keep Utah competitive. Vice Chair Clyde expressed her appreciation for the Governor's vision of education as an investment.

Governor Leavitt said the 21st Century will be defined by who is able to reach their entire citizenry with new levels of knowledge and their applications. This is a different mind set than we have had in the past. We have been oriented to traditional and non-traditional students; in the future, we will only have students. To implement this to an entire culture over and over again, in order to keep us moving forward, places a tremendous burden on what has traditionally been higher education.

The CEO of a Utah company recently told the Governor that his biggest problem was that colleges and universities do not respond quickly enough to change. We will have a much more global marketplace in the future. The Governor predicted

that the Regents were in for a very stimulating discussion when planning for the future.

Commissioner Foxley mentioned that three dignitaries from China higher education would be in Utah the following Friday. Everything they want to see is related to technology in higher education. This group has World Bank funding and are looking for institutions who can best position themselves to help China in training higher education administrators.

Governor Leavitt responded that China has plans already in place to build 1000 universities. They want the curriculum to be offered in English in science and other critical areas. This is a staggering economic opportunity for our system. The Malaysia business community has committed \$350 million to build the equivalent of Western Governors University. The Governor stressed that this commitment had come from the business community, not higher education. These people do not believe Malaysia can survive as a low-cost manufacturing economy, so they 're moving to an information economy.

Chair Johnson thanked the Governor for helping the Regents better understand their roles and for taking time to visit with them. Following the Governor's departure, the Board took a brief break.

Visit with Lieutenant Governor Walker

When the meeting reconvened, Lieutenant Olene Walker joined the group. Chair Johnson welcomed her to the meeting and asked her to address the assemblage. Lieutenant Governor Walker said a Legislative Session is always a challenge, but it is democracy at its finest. Getting 104 individuals to agree on anything is somewhat of a miracle. She thanked the Regents and said she appreciated the support and time they give to the legislative process.

Legislative Bills

Chair Johnson asked the Commissioner to lead the discussion on legislative bills. Commissioner Foxley referred to the summary of fiscal note bills and the detailed listing of the bills being monitored by higher education, both of which were in the Regents' folders. She asked the Legislative Representatives to stand and be recognized. She commended them and the institutional Presidents for their work with the Legislators.

Regent Zabriskie explained S.B. 34, which would exempt sales tax money at college and university athletic events and earmarks that money for Title IX. Commissioner Foxley said she desired the Regents' support of this bill, noting that if it passed, the tax revenues would be kept at the respective institutions, with the money being targeted for women's athletics and Title IX issues.

Associate Commissioner Hunsaker said S.B. 105 (UCOPE) had passed out of committee that morning with an amendment to change the funding amount. The Commissioner explained that this would not provide more money for USHE students for UCOPE funding (primarily work study students); rather, the bill would expand the opportunity to BYU students. The state set the precedent with Career Teaching Scholarship funds. These funds go to support students (who are

Utah residents) rather than the institutions. If we were required to oversee funding for BYU students and were not given more money, it would reduce funding for our students. This bill would protect the students attending the state institutions, so that the money was not diluted to include BYU students. Passage of S.B. 105 would give the USHE more money for funding its UCOPE students in the future because of the increase in the number of Utah County residents.

Regent Jordan asked Chair Johnson to go through the list of bills and briefly explain them individually, and ask the Presidents to say whether or not they supported them. Commissioner Foxley briefly explained the fiscal note bills.

S.B. 172, Apprenticeship Training Funding, would benefit the individuals receiving apprenticeship training at the identified institutions. President Budd said this was an important economic development issue, particularly for people training for business and industry. Regent Lee said the Joint Liaison Committee had recognized the need for apprenticeship training in their budget recommendations.

President Romesburg pointed out that S.B. 177 would set aside land for future use when possible funds would be available and would not compete for funding.

Regent Jordan moved that the Regents let Legislators know they supported S.B. 208, S.B. 172 and S.B. 177, but that they did not support moving the single-institution bills above the system hot spots. Regent Cumming seconded the motion. President Emert pointed out that these bills had nearly all been approved by the Regents in the budget sent to the Legislature. Dr. Winn noted that all fiscal bills requested to date totaled \$350 million, competing for \$10 million in actual funds. Last year higher education got \$875,000 of fiscal note bills. Vote was taken on the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Johnson asked President Day to speak to H.B. 114, Snow College South, which passed the House Education Committee by a 5-4 margin and would be considered by the full House of Representatives later in the week or early the following week. This bill would combine the Sevier Valley Applied Technology Center in Richfield with Snow College as a separate campus. President Day explained the purpose of the bill would be to allow the Richfield people to receive college credit for vocational class work now being taken in the area. For the adults in the Sevier Valley area, these programs are comparable to the programs already offered by Snow College. President Day said this merger would make eminent sense for the citizens of Richfield. Regent Zabriskie noted that public education had come out publicly opposing this bill. Chair Johnson said the Board's position has been that the proper body was dealing with this issue. If it were to pass, we would adopt the provisions of this bill and carry out the mission set forth in the best manner possible. Commissioner Foxley agreed that Snow College was able to do what was being requested in this bill. The community colleges all have the capability of offering credit and non-credit training. President Day said he supported the Board's position. The Legislature should not be asked to choose between public education and higher education. It is a matter of best serving the people in Richfield.

Other bills were explained briefly and discussed.

Chair Jones welcomed and introduced the members of Democratic Leadership who joined the Board at 11:30 a.m. He asked House Minority Leader Dave Jones to make a brief statement.

Representative Jones thanked the Regents for the opportunity to speak with them. He said the Democrats were very supportive of higher education and of education in general. They recognized the trends to which the Regents were trying to alert the Legislature. House Democrats recognized there were major problems due to the I-15 highway construction project which threaten the well being of many agencies in the state, including higher education. Representative Jones said the Democrats agreed with Governor Leavitt on bonding. Interest rates are low and it is a good time to bond. The big concern is the growing deficit in deferred maintenance. At the present time, \$1.1 billion in state building needs are not being dealt with. He thanked the Regents for the opportunity to meet with them and share mutual concerns.

Senate Minority Leader Scott Howell joined the meeting. Chair Johnson welcomed him back to Utah following his trip to Japan for the Winter Olympics. Senator Howell thanked the Board for giving him time to share his concerns. He asked the Regents what they really thought about their roles as Regents, including dispensing money, calling for audits of faculty workload, etc. He said some of his colleagues question the effectiveness of this Board. He asked, how can we better serve as Legislators? At Senator Howell's request, Dan Jones did a survey prior to the 1998 Legislative Session requesting Utahns' most critical concerns. The #1 issue of concern to Utah's citizens was education (K-12). Crime took second place, higher education was third, and transportation was fourth. Senator Howell said that sent a strong message to the Legislature to pay more attention to higher education. He thanked Regent Croshaw for arranging a meeting with student leaders; their issues matched up well with the survey results.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. The Regents drove to American Stores' new building for an executive session luncheon with the Presidents and Trustees.

Joyce Cottrell CPS
Secretary to the Board of Regents