

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
3 TRIAD CENTER, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
August 30, 2001

Regents Present:

Charles E. Johnson, Chair
Pamela J. Atkinson, Vice Chair
Linnea S. Barney
Daryl C. Barrett (by telephone)
Kim R. Burningham
David J. Grant
L. Brent Hoggan
Michael R. Jensen
Nolan E. Karras
E. George Mantes
John B. Norman, Jr.
Jed H. Pitcher
Sara V. Sinclair
Marlon O. Snow
Maria Sweeten

Regents Excused:

Jerry C. Atkin
James S. Jardine
David J. Jordan

Office of the Commissioner

Cecelia H. Foxley; Commissioner of Higher Education
David Buhler, Associate Commissioner for Public Relations
Joyce Cottrell, Executive Secretary
Linda Fife, Director of Academic Programs
Becky Hudson, Administrative Assistant
Norm Tarbox, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Facilities
Gary Wixom, Assistant Commissioner for Applied Technology Education and Special Projects

Representatives of the Media

JaNae Francis, *Standard Examiner*
Jason Olson, *Deseret News*
Kirsten Stewart, *Salt Lake Tribune*
Twila Van Leer, *Deseret News*

ATE Leaders

Michael J. Bouwhuis, Davis ATC
Royanne D. Boyer, Mountainlands ATC
Karen Derrick, Wasatch Front ATC/Salt Lake City School Board
Bo Hall, Wasatch Front South ATC
Richard N. Jones, Uintah Basin ATC
Brent Judd, Southwest ATC
Richard Maughan, Bridgerland ATC
Brent Wallis, Ogden-Weber ATC

Chair Charlie Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Administration of Oath of Office to New Regents

Chair Johnson explained that as a result of recent legislation, two members of the State Board of Education would be serving as non-voting members of the State Board of Regents (SBR), and two Regents will be serving as non-voting members of the State Board of Education (SBE). Chair Johnson and Vice Chair Atkinson will represent the Regents on the State Board of Education, and SBE Chair Burningham and Linnea Barney will represent public education on the State Board of Regents. Chair Johnson asked Regents Burningham and Barney to come forward to be sworn in as new members of the State Board of Regents. He also invited Regent Nolan Karras, who was not present at the August 3 Board meeting, to join them. After administering the oath of office, Chair Johnson congratulated the new Regents and welcomed them to the Board.

Transition of Applied Technology Centers and Applied Technology Service Regions to become part of the new Utah College of Applied Technology

Chair Johnson said the first item of business was for the Regents to adopt language giving the Applied Technology Centers and Applied Technology Center Service Regions the authority to continue delivering applied technology education after September 1. Commissioner Foxley said this was needed to ensure that our students do not lose their eligibility for financial aid and that they continue to receive the same opportunities for vocational training that they now have through the ATCs and ATCSRs. She also indicated this would clarify that the administrators, faculty and staff at these institutions would remain in place. She read the proposed language which had been drafted by the Attorney General's office and said she had received a letter from the Northwest Accrediting Association's Commission on Colleges stating that this change is acceptable for accreditation purposes.

Vice Chair Atkinson moved that the Board adopt the language ensuring the continuation of applied technology education at these institutions. The motion was seconded by Regent Snow and carried unanimously.

Selection of the President of the Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT)

Chair Johnson acknowledged and welcomed the ATC Superintendents and ATCSR Directors and thanked them for their attendance. He asked Regent Sweeten, who chaired the UCAT Presidential Search Committee, to explain the efforts of the committee. Regent Sweeten said with the mandate to implement the new UCAT by September 1, the first item of business was to select a President. She acknowledged and thanked the members of the search committee. Working on a fast track, the committee established selection criteria and advertised widely within the higher education and vocational communities. The committee was pleased to receive a large pool of well-qualified candidates. They interviewed a pool of semifinalists and forwarded four names to the Board of Regents.

Chair Johnson said the Regents had met in executive session earlier in the day and had interviewed the following four candidates: Robert A. Anderson, Jr., President, Colorado Northwestern Community College in Rangely, Colorado; Michael J. Bouwhuis, Superintendent, Davis Applied Technology Center in Kaysville, Utah; Robert O. Brems, Associate Superintendent/State Director, Applied Technology Education, Utah State Office of Education; and Gregory G. Fitch, Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Education. A fifth finalist withdrew from the process. Chair Johnson acknowledged that the new procedure of releasing the names of finalists in advance had changed the dynamics of the search process somewhat. The Regents had been impressed with all of the finalists, all of whom were well qualified. As a public body, the Board is not permitted to take a vote in executive session, so Chair Johnson recognized Regent Sweeten for a motion.

Regent Sweeten nominated Gregory G. Fitch as the first President of the Utah College of Applied Technology, to become effective September 1, 2001, in accordance with the legislation enacted in special session on June 20. The nomination was seconded by Regent Jensen. Vote was taken by roll call and carried unanimously.

President Fitch lives in Boise, Idaho. He presently serves as the Executive Director of the Idaho State Board of Education. That board oversees all education in Idaho, from kindergarten through doctorate levels. In addition, he has held positions in Nebraska, Washington, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Kansas. Chair Johnson asked Dr. Fitch to introduce himself.

President Fitch said he was humbled to be included with such a high caliber of candidates as those who were also interviewed. He acknowledged UCAT's responsibility to recognize the

partnership of ATE in all levels of education for the benefit of the citizens of Utah. He applauded the Governor, Legislature and both educational boards for making Utah a front-runner in such an undertaking. He apologized for his wife, who was not feeling well and returned to Idaho on an earlier flight.

President Fitch said at age 17 when he first started college, he was not ready. He then joined the military and was in the infantry in Viet Nam, serving in combat. After leaving the Army, Dr. Fitch joined the Police Department, ending his career by serving as a bomb technician. He has also farmed, driven a truck, and worked in technical training for the Department of Defense, where he trained 45,000 troops in four days to prepare for Deseret Storm. He has learned the value of higher education through his own personal experience. In his current position, he has had to provide balance between all levels of education, including the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind and several other state agencies. He helped coordinate standards for Idaho students to ensure that gifted and talented students are reached, as well as those who are behind their grade levels. Dr. Fitch said an important part of this endeavor is making science and math courses attractive to students before they reach college age.

Chair Johnson acknowledged the presence of Davis ATC Superintendent Michael J. Bouwhuis, and informed President Fitch that the members of the audience were leaders in the ATE community in Utah.

Commissioner Foxley said President Fitch would also be an Associate Commissioner. She has known him as a counterpart in Idaho through the SHEEO (State Higher Education Executive Officers) and WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) organizations. She said everything she had seen and heard about Dr. Fitch had been positive. He is known as a problem solver, a bridge builder, and a person who can get things done. He has been very successful in his previous positions.

Twila Van Leer, *Deseret News* reporter, asked Dr. Fitch when he would begin his new position. Commissioner Foxley said they had not discussed specific dates but see the month of September as “transitional time.” Dr. Fitch has important work to finish in Idaho. The Applied Technology Centers (soon to be Applied Technology Colleges) will continue to work smoothly with the individuals who are already in place. Dr. Fitch will be doing some things for Utah while he is still in Idaho, and he will begin his new duties as soon as he can.

After President Fitch had responded to questions from the media and ATE leaders, Regent Grant moved that the meeting be adjourned. Chair Johnson congratulated President Fitch and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Joyce Cottrell CPS
Executive Secretary

Date Approved