

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
VIA CONFERENCE CALL
October 1, 2001

Regents Participating

Charles E. Johnson, Chair
Pamela J. Atkinson, Vice Chair
Jerry C. Atkin
Linnea S. Barney
Daryl C. Barrett
Kim R. Burningham
David J. Grant
L. Brent Hoggan
James S. Jardine
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

David J. Jordan

Office of the Commissioner

Cecelia H. Foxley, Commissioner
David Buhler, Associate Commissioner for Public Relations
Joyce Cottrell, Executive Secretary
Chalmers Gail Norris, Associate Commissioner for Student Financial Aid
Norm Tarbox, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Facilities

Institutional Representatives

J. Bernard Machen, University of Utah
Kermit L. Hall, Utah State University
Paul H. Thompson, Weber State University
Steven D. Bennion, Southern Utah University
Rick Wheeler, Snow College
Robert C. Huddleston, Dixie State College
Ryan L. Thomas, College of Eastern Utah
Brad Cook, Utah Valley State College
H. Lynn Cundiff, Salt Lake Community College

Representatives of the Media

JaNeal Francis, Ogden Standard Examiner

Commissioner Foxley welcomed everyone at 12:30 p.m. and explained that the purpose of this meeting was to review and take action on the 2002-2003 Capital Development and Land Acquisition Priorities.

The Commissioner announced that UVSC President Kerry Romesburg's father-in-law had passed away on Thursday, September 27. He and his wife, Judy, were attending a family memorial service and Vice President Brad Cook was representing him in this meeting. A plant will be sent to the Romesburgs' home on behalf of the Board of Regents and Council of Presidents. Commissioner Foxley said Judy's parents had recently moved to Utah from Arizona.

The meeting began with a roll call of the Regents and Presidents. Chair Johnson asked Associate Commissioner Tarbox to briefly review the Q&P process. Dr. Tarbox said after the process was reviewed in the September 13 meeting of the Board, additional information was gathered before running the Q&P formula. Attachment 2 of the agenda material outlined the points awarded to the various projects based on the Regents' policy. The four projects shown at the top of the list were funded last year but held back because of the shortfall in state funds for the current year. Therefore, it was appropriate that these four projects be collectively the top priority of the Regents. They have been scrutinized by the Q&P process in the past and were not run through the formula again because of their status.

The other 11 projects had various points awarded based on the criteria. They were listed by order of the number of points awarded. Five of the projects received life safety points. Three projects had non-state funds or the institutions had a firm commitment for donor funding. There were no infrastructure projects this year, and no points awarded in the O&M endowment category. Also shown was the distribution of state funds requested, a description of the projects (renovation or remodel), and estimated O&M required. The Regents should now consider factors external to the Q&P formula, which might weigh into the prioritization. Associate Commissioner Tarbox noted that the State Building Board was holding their hearings on Wednesday, October 3. They have given Commissioner Foxley 15 minutes to present the Regents' priorities.

Chair Johnson said with respect to available funds (cash or bonding), it was not appropriate for the Regents to address that issue in this meeting. The Regents' responsibility is to simply give their priorities to the Building Board, the Governor, and the Legislature. He acknowledged that there was a slim chance of getting all of the projects funded.

Chair Johnson asked the Presidents if any of them objected to where their projects were ranked. President Bennion said he did not feel that SUU had been fairly treated with their Teacher Education Building for the following reasons: (1) Last year 4 life safety points were awarded to remodel the building. A subsequent decision by DFCM to raze the building resulted in eliminating the life safety problems, and the associated life safety points. DFCM did three reviews of this project to determine if the building could be brought up to code. They concluded that it would be cost prohibitive and a better investment to build a new facility. (2) The University raised about 10% of its operating budget (\$3.5 million) to buy the property. Associate Commissioner Tarbox said if the value of the entire plot of land were counted, 2 other funding points would be awarded. (3) In looking at the demand for teachers in the coming decade, SUU is the second largest USHE producer of teachers in the state (after USU). There is no way to weigh this factor into the Q&P formula. Twenty-five percent of SUU's student body is enrolled in teacher preparation courses.

Chair Johnson said last year the Governor and Legislature had stepped into that arena with an Engineering and Computer Science Technology Initiative. Policy initiatives are not built into the Q&P process, but they are part of the political process. Regarding the other two issues, it is a case of being consistent over the years. President Bennion said SUU had been invited by the Building Board and DFCM to be part of a collaboration where the state could save about 15% of the costs by collaborating with design and purchase of materials. The Teacher Education Building could still be a part of this because of the state hold-back of funds. Chair Johnson thanked President Bennion for his remarks.

Regent Hoggan moved to adopt the list of the ranking of the capital improvement projects and land acquisition as it was presented in the agenda materials. Regent Pitcher seconded the motion.

Regent Sweeten said that during the Regents' dinner in Ogden last month, Representative Gerry Adair has basically suggested throwing out the items to be restored and coming back with only the facilities to be renewed. Chair Johnson said the top four buildings were not prioritized on this list. Commissioner Foxley said Representative Adair had reiterated that comment to her. She explained that the four buildings were presented as a block with the Regents because of their previous approval. Representative Adair said he thought the Legislators would have other ideas this year. Chair Johnson said if the Legislature tells the Board to reprioritize their list, they will do so.

Regent Grant offered a substitute motion, to reprioritize the list by adding 6 points (4 for life safety and 2 for land acquisition) to SUU's Teacher Education Building, thereby giving it 65 points rather than 59, and moving it to the sixth place in the ranking. Regent Norman seconded the amended motion. Vote was taken on the amended motion, which carried, 8-7.

Since Regent Jardine had voted on the prevailing side, he moved to reconsider the vote. The motion was seconded and carried. Commissioner Foxley read the original prioritization list. Regent Jardine asked if President Bennion's argument regarding health and life safety issues had been considered during the Q&P process. Commissioner Foxley said those reasons had been considered, but DFCM had recommended that the building be demolished so there were no longer life safety issues involved. Regent Jardine asked if that action resulted in a loss of classrooms. Commissioner Foxley responded that the students were meeting in other locations. Regent Jardine asked why the private funding had not been included. Commissioner Foxley said that the private funding was for the land that had been discussed by the Presidents also. If funding for land were included, some points would also have to be added for USVC's Wasatch Campus and other projects as well. Regent Jardine apologized for the delay caused by his questions.

Vote was retaken on the amended motion, which failed by a vote of 8-7. Vote was then taken on the main motion, which carried, 14-1.

Chair Johnson said more work would be done but this action would establish the Regents' priorities to be presented to the State Building Board. He thanked everyone for their participation.

Regent Karras said he continued to worry about additional campuses and the expansion of the number of campuses which increases the cost of education. He asked how much "new money" would be allocated for O&M in a normal year, assuming an allocation of \$5 million. Chair Johnson said 20% would be a reasonable estimate.

Chair Johnson again thanked everyone for their support. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Joyce Cottrell CPS

Date Approved