

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY AND BY CONFERENCE CALL
January 18, 2005

Regents Participating:

Nolan E. Karras, Chair
E. George Mantes, Vice Chair
Daryl C. Barrett
Bonnie Jean Beesley
Katharine B. Garff
David J. Grant
Meghan Holbrook
James S. Jardine
Michael R. Jensen
Trent Kemp
John C. Pingree
Jed H. Pitcher
Sara V. Sinclair
Marlon O. Snow
Maria Sweeten

Regents Excused:

Jerry C. Atkin
Janet A. Cannon
David J. Jordan

Office of the Commissioner

Richard E. Kendell, Commissioner
David L. Buhler, Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs
Joyce Cottrell, Executive Secretary
Amanda K. Covington, Director of Communications

Utah State University Trustees

Gayle S. McKeachnie, Chair
L. J. Godfrey, Vice Chair
Lester C. Essig
Lynnette T. Hansen
Richard L. Shipley
Randy Watts

Chair Nolan Karras greeted an estimated 300 people assembled at Utah State University as well as those Regents participating in the meeting via teleconference. He recognized the trustees and donors in the audience and thanked everyone for their attendance. Secretary Cottrell called the roll and verified that there was a quorum.

Chair Karras explained that the Regents had two options regarding the USU presidency: (1) They could go forward with a formal search, which is the normal procedure, or (2) appoint someone who had already been through a formal search process. Chair Karras appointed a committee, chaired by Regent Jed H. Pitcher (former chair of the USU Board of Trustees), Trustee Richard L. Shipley, and Mr. Robert Foley, Chair of the

Uintah Basin Advisory Board, and asked them to visit the USU Campus to interview various individuals and groups. He asked Regent Pitcher to report on the committee's actions.

Regent Pitcher said it had been a very positive experience for all three members of the committee, who interviewed approximately 70 people, including faculty, staff, alumni, community leaders, legislators, donors, and students. There was a remarkable degree of consensus that (1) Utah State University has considerable momentum, thanks to the leadership of President Kermit Hall; (2) Executive Vice President and Provost Stan Albrecht has been an important part of that movement; (3) Dr. Albrecht has already been through a national search four years ago and was a finalist for the Utah State University presidency; and (4) the Regents should forego a formal search.

Chair Karras called for discussion from the Regents. **Regent Pitcher moved that the Board of Regents make an exception to Regents' Policy R203 in its entirety, except for paragraph 4.9 of that policy which requires that presidents be selected in a properly noticed open meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by Regent Sinclair and carried.**

Regent Pitcher then moved that the Board of Regents appoint Dr. Stan L. Albrecht as the 15th President of Utah State University. The motion was seconded by Regent Sinclair and carried unanimously.

Dr. Albrecht and his wife, Joyce, came to the front of the room with a standing ovation.

Chair Karras assured those present that the Regents take the responsibility of choosing presidents very seriously. They realize that a university is a complex, living, breathing organism, and that it is important to keep the momentum and the power of the university going forward. He said it was a pleasure to know that Stan Albrecht has had much to do with that progress and the daily work being done at USU. He assured Dr. Albrecht that the Regents were very pleased with this appointment.

Trustee Chair McKeachnie reported that the Board of Trustees had voted in support of this action six months earlier. The entire University community knew that Dr. Hall was in high demand around the country and that he would not stay in Logan for an extended period of time. When everyone thought President Hall would be appointed president of the University of Tennessee last summer, the Trustees voted to recommend to the State Board of Regents that Dr. Albrecht be appointed the new president of Utah State University. Mr. McKeachnie reported that the Trustees' decision had not changed.

Chair McKeachnie told the Albrechts that the Trustees had treasured their association with them. They enjoyed working closely with Dr. Albrecht as Executive Vice President and Provost. There was never a doubt in any Trustee's mind that if President Hall were to leave, they wanted Dr. Albrecht to continue the work he and President Hall had begun. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair McKeachnie congratulated Dr. and Mrs. Albrecht and welcomed them as the new President and First Lady of Utah State University. He then read a statement from President Hall supporting the appointment of Dr. Albrecht. Chair McKeachnie pledged the Trustees' support to President Albrecht and thanked him for his willingness to accept the appointment.

Chair Karras said the Regents were delighted to have the Trustees' support. Presidential appointments are serious decisions, and the Regents took care to make sure that the right procedure was followed. They did not want a delay before a new president was appointed, but wanted to keep the forward momentum going at Utah State University. The role of USU is very important to the entire State. If the State is successful, it will be because the presidents of the institutions are empowered to make decisions on behalf of the institutions.

Dr. Albrecht said President Hall had jokingly introduced him as the new football coach a few months earlier. He expressed deep appreciation to Chair Karras and the State Board of Regents for this opportunity and for their vote of support. He said he accepted the appointment with humility and a great understanding of the expectations, challenges and opportunities ahead for Utah State University. He thanked Commissioner Kendell, praised his leadership, and said he was grateful for the opportunity to work with him. Dr. Albrecht expressed special thanks to Chair McKeachnie and the USU Board of Trustees, saying he looked forward to working with them as unitedly they endeavor to move the University forward. He thanked the entire University community and said he was overwhelmed by their expressions of unqualified support.

Finally, he expressed his appreciation to President Kermit Hall for the unique relationship they'd had as President and Provost. Because of that relationship, President Albrecht said he had the opportunity to be a better president than he would have been four years ago. He acknowledged the debt to those who had led the University in the past.

President Albrecht said several themes would assume priority during his presidency: (1) Academic quality, (2) Faculty and staff compensation. (3) Access for all academically prepared students. (4) Shared governance with faculty, staff and student leadership governing boards. (5) Accountability, recognizing that the money spent is that of the taxpayers, students, and others. (6) Athletic success in the classroom and on the playing field. (7) Comprehensive capital campaign. (8) Collaboration with the University of Utah, especially in the area of economic development. (9) Students are why we are here. Dr. Albrecht said his first meeting as President on February 1 would be with students.

President Albrecht acknowledged the presence of family members who were able to rearrange their schedules to be present at this meeting. He was grateful for the opportunity of continuing to share this experience with his wife, Joyce. He pledged their loyalty, energy and talents to justify the confidence placed in them to serve Utah State University and the State of Utah. It is a journey they anticipate with hope and excitement.

Commissioner Kendell extended his congratulations and best wishes to President and Mrs. Albrecht and said he was very delighted with this appointment. The Regents and Commissioner see many candidates who may qualify as the president of an institution. One vital quality that rarely shows up in the job description is love for the institution. Stan and Joyce Albrecht have that love in great abundance. This will be a great asset for Utah State University.

Regent Snow moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Regent Beesley and carried.

Joyce Cottrell CPS
Executive Secretary

Date Approved