### MINUTES OF MEETING UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS UTAH VALLEY STATE COLLEGE, OREM, UTAH

#### October 27, 2005

Regents Present Nolan E. Karras, Chair Jed H. Pitcher, Vice Chair Jerry C. Atkin Daryl C. Barrett Janet A. Cannon Rosanita Cespedes Katharine B. Garff David J. Grant Meghan Holbrook Michael R. Jensen David J. Jordan Gaby Bradford Kingery Sara V. Sinclair Marlon O. Snow Regents Excused Bonnie Jean Beesley James S. Jardine Josh M. Reid

Office of the Commissioner

Richard E. Kendell, Commissioner David L. Buhler, Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs Joyce Cottrell, Executive Secretary Amanda Covington, Director of Communications David S. Doty, Assistant Commissioner and Director of Policy Studies Kimberly Henrie, Budget Officer Phyllis C. Safman, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs Mark H. Spencer, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Facilities/Executive Director, UHEAA Lucille T. Stoddard, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs Kevin Walthers, Assistant Commissioner for Finance and Facilities Lynne Ward, Assistant Commissioner and Executive Director, UESP Gary S. Wixom, Assistant Commissioner for CTE and Special Projects

#### Institutional Representatives

University of Utah

John G. Francis (Acting President), Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Laura Snow, Special Assistant to the President/Secretary to the University Ali Hasnain, Student Body President and Utah Student Association (USA) President

<u>Utah State University</u> Glenn Ford (Acting President), Vice President for Business and Finance Noelle Cockett, Interim Provost Quinn Millett, Student Body President

<u>Weber State University</u> Norm Tarbox (Acting President), Vice President of Administrative Services Minutes of Meeting October 2005 Page 2

Brad Mortensen, Assistant Vice President for Support and Auxiliary Services Michael Vaughan, Provost Ryan Starks, Student Body President and USA Executive Vice President

<u>Southern Utah University</u> Steven D. Bennion, President Abe Harraf, Provost Gregory L. Stauffer, Vice President for Administrative and Financial Services Micah Keith, Student Body President

<u>Snow College</u> Michael T. Benson, President Bradley A. Winn, Provost John Vincent, Student Body President

Dixie State College Lee G. Caldwell, President Donna Dillingham-Evans, Interim Academic Vice President Stanley J. Plewe, Vice President of College Services Tony Cronk, Student Body President

<u>College of Eastern Utah</u> Brad King (Acting President), Vice President of Student Services Jesse Holt, Student Body President

Utah Valley State College William A. Sederburg, President Eva Bernfeld, Curriculum Manager Bob Clark, Director of Physical Plant Brad Cook, Academic Affairs Vice President Cory Duckworth, Vice President for Student Affairs/Strategic Planning Val Hale, Assistant Vice President for External Affairs Megan Kennedy, Assistant Athletic Director Linda Makin, Director of Budgets Wayne Mangelson, Senior Director, Career and Student Employment Cameron Martin, Assistant to the President Michael Jaughan, Director, Campus Events James L. Michaelis, Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning Karen Olsen, Executive Assistant to the President Bob Rasmussen, Assistant Vice President for Student Life/Dean of Students Jared Sumsion, Student Body President Ellen Sweat, Senior Budget Analyst Douglas Warner, Associate Vice President for Finance and Human Resources Karl Worthington, Associate Vice President for Academics Frank Young, Director of Space Development Engineering Karen Acerson, Member, UVSC Board of Trustees

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Jeff Kahn, UVSC Foundation

Salt Lake Community College David Richardson (Acting President), Vice President for Academic Services Kent Ferrel, Interim Vice President for Business Services

<u>Utah College of Applied Technology</u> Darrell K. White, Interim President Jared Haines, Vice President for Academic and Student Services

<u>Representatives of the Media</u> Anna Chang-Yen, *Provo Daily Herald* Maria Villaseñor, *WSU Signpost* Steve Speckman, *Deseret Morning News* Shinika Sykes, *Salt Lake Tribune* 

**Others** 

Carrie Flamm, Executive Director, Utah Student Association Kim Hood, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget Ken Nye, Deputy Director, Division of Facilities Construction and Management Michael A. Petersen, Executive Director, Utah Education Network Spencer Pratt, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst

Following a breakfast meeting with the UVSC Board of Trustees and meetings of the Board Committees, Vice Chair Jed Pitcher called to order the Committee of the Whole at 11:00 a.m.

Regent Pitcher excused Regents Beesley, Jardine and Reid, and introduced the vice presidents who were representing their institutions. He noted that Regent Reid had participated in the Finance Committee discussion via telephone.

Introduction of Count Nikolai Tolstoy. President Sederburg introduced Rusty Butler, who in turn introduced Count Nikolai Tolstoy, senior member of the Tolstoy clan and an adjunct professor at UVSC, living in Great Britain. Count Tolstoy lectures on his predecessor, Leo Tolstoy and the Tolstoy heritage, as well as Merlin and the Arthurian Legends.. He is an author in his own right, having recently published the first volume of his stepfather's (Patrick O'Brien's) biography.

#### USHE 2006-2007 Budget Request

Commissioner Kendell noted that in 1993 higher education's share of the State's appropriated budget was nearly 18%. After dipping to less than 15% in 2001, we are presently at approximately 16%. Sixty-five percent of the USHE budget comes from State appropriations, and 35% comes from student tuition. We would like that ratio to be 75:25. He pointed out that \$5243 per FTE comes from State funds, which is 11.2% below 1999 levels.

While some decision-makers view higher education as just another agency with an "empty bucket" to be filled by legislative appropriation, it is really an investment which will yield financial benefits to the State. There is a direct correlation between level of education and lifetime earnings. Commissioner Kendell referred to information from the Department of Workforce Services, listing occupations with the most expected Utah openings and the highest-paying Utah occupations with 100 or more annual openings anticipated between 2002 and 2012. The Commissioner pointed out that all of the jobs in the latter category require higher education.

It was pointed out in the Regents' joint meeting with the State Building Board that approximately two-thirds of all state-owned buildings are higher education facilities. Commissioner Kendell noted that during the past decade, only 34% of the funding for USHE capital projects had come from State appropriations. The remaining 66% was received in the form of donations, grants, student fees, and revenue bonds. Dr. Kendell said higher education provides a real return on investment, and hopes that the Legislature will continue to make the investment.

A copy of Commissioner Kendell's slide presentation will be attached to the official minutes and retained in the Commissioner's Office.

The Commissioner called attention to Replacement Tab K in the Regents' folders which contained the 2006-2007 USHE budget request. He noted that the budget request had been developed around the major themes discussed in the Regents' meetings in St. George last April. He reviewed the budget priorities:

- 1. Salary and Compensation
- 2. Efficiency and Productivity Measures
- 3. Student Success Initiatives
- 4. Mission-Based Priorities/Funding Correction
- 5. Workforce Development Initiatives
- 6. Economic Development

Salary and Compensation. Commissioner Kendell said higher education would request the same consideration given to public education and other state employees. The Legislature appropriated funding last year to retain key faculty and staff in critical areas. That money has been very well used for a small group of very critical people, and we will be able to make a very favorable report to the Legislature about the appropriation of those funds. The 2006-2007 budget will request another \$5 million. Regent Grant asked about distribution of the retention funds. Commissioner Kendell responded the institutions had flexibility in administering their funding, but all of the money was used for compensation, including benefits.

Efficiency and Productivity. Commissioner Kendell said he had been assured that our \$3.5 million request for operations and maintenance (O&M) of our facilities would be funded as a housekeeping item. Institutions have anticipated a \$6.3 million increase in fuel and power expenses. Anticipated increases are due to increases costs and not to increased utilization. Actual costs may exceed those estimates. Our institutions have committed to keep their utilities flat except for the new buildings that come online. Vice President Winn verified that Snow College would submit a request for fuel and power increases.

<u>Student Success</u>. Last year the Legislature appropriated funding for the New Century Scholarship. However, many more students take advantage of this program than the State has funded. Commissioner Kendell explained that the UCOPE request (need-based financial aid) was based on the average level of funding per student in the WICHE states. Student success funding is allocated in the form of a block grant to the schools, to be used

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as they determine most appropriate. Regent Kingery stressed the importance of need-based financial aid. We must provide the necessary resources to enable students to achieve success.

<u>Mission-based Priorities</u>. Commissioner Kendell explained that this money would be divided between the institutions and used as it is most needed. Although he and the Presidents are still in the process of determining a formula for distributing mission-based funding, the amount in the budget request will not change, nor will the funding categories.

<u>Workforce Development</u>. The 2006-2007 budget includes a request that the State continue to fund the Engineering and Nursing Initiatives. The "Jobs Now" Initiative was developed during the 2005 Legislative Session. The USHE is requesting \$1 million, and UCAT is requesting \$2 million in this category. It is critical that students be informed at an earlier age of the potential for jobs paying high salaries and the education/training required for those jobs.

<u>Economic Development</u>. Commissioner Kendell stated that every institution in this state plays a vital role in local, regional and state economic development. USTAR is not a higher education initiative; it is an economic development initiative. State leaders are advocating the creation of 12-20 business centers throughout Utah, but they have not developed a firm plan nor identified the funding source at this point in time. It is possible that the proposed business centers can be merged with the Innovation Centers embedded in the USTAR plan.

Commissioner Kendell requested the Regents' approval of the \$45,344,100 budget request. **Regent Grant** moved approval of the 2006-2007 USHE budget request. The motion was seconded by Regent Holbrook.

Vice Chair Pitcher recognized Ali Hasnain, University of Utah Student Body President, and Ryan Starks, Weber State University Student Body President, who asked to comment on the budget proposal. Ali expressed the students' appreciation for the opportunity to present their top funding priority as need-based financial aid. Ryan thanked Commissioner Kendell for referring to a college education as an investment. He shared his own experience and said he would not have been able to go to college without that help. He pointed out that it is no longer only students from the lowest income groups who need financial aid. Ali introduced the other student leaders in attendance: Chris Wharton, Westminster College; Micah Keith, Southern Utah University; John Vincent, Snow College; Jared Sumsion, Utah Valley State College; Jesse Holt, College of Eastern Utah; Tony Cronk, Dixie State College; Quinn Millet, Utah State University; and Carrie Flamm, Executive Director of the Utah Student Association.

#### Vote was taken on the motion to approve the budget request. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Utah Education Network

Dr. Michael A. Petersen, Executive Director of the Utah Education Network (UEN), explained that the UEN provides the network connectivity used by all of the schools in the state, at an annual cost of \$9 million. UEN's top funding priority is for a course management program, which would be made available to all of the institutions. Through a bidding process, WebCT Vista was chosen as the best course management tool for the Utah System of Higher Education. It has been tested on a pilot basis for the past two years at Salt Lake Community College and Weber State University. This tool will allow UEN to pay licensing fees (\$1.6 million) on a perpetual basis. The institutions would then be free from paying the current annual system license fee. Most institutions would move hosting the course management system to UEN, saving them the cost of servers and IT staff. This approach would

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cost \$3 million less annually than an institutional approach to course management. Dr. Petersen anticipated that during the next two to three years, every class and every student will utilize a course management system.

Vice President Tarbox spoke in support of UEN's proposal. Weber State University has been able to save a significant amount of money by using this course management system. It will provide very significant savings to the entire system. Vice President King said CEU has been using WebCT and has found that it creates a whole new paradigm for students and a new environment for them to be able to contact their instructors more efficiently, especially adjunct faculty who do not have offices or office hours. President Benson said he had met recently with nursing students in Nephi who were able to take advantage of this system. President Caldwell also spoke in support of the course management system.

Regent Pitcher thanked Dr. Petersen for his presentation.

#### Tax Reform

During lunch, Vice Chair Pitcher introduced Dr. Gary Cornia, Director of BYU's Romney Institute of Public Management. He is a former Utah State Tax Commissioner and chaired Governor Walker's Tax Review Commission. Dr. Cornia said tax reform is needed for a variety of reasons, all of which have implications for education. The most fundamentals reason for reforming the tax structure are to respond to the globalization of the world's culture and to support educating our children. We cannot compete globally without a highly trained and educated workforce. In the next 15 years, Utah's public education system anticipates receiving 150,000 new students, many of whom will be non-English speaking. Educating a non-English-speaking student is more costly than educating a native student.

Dr. Cornia's recommendations included lowering the state sales tax rate to 3.75%, taxing services, flattening personal income tax rates, eliminating corporate income tax, and cutting expenditures, if necessary. These actions would stabilize revenue streams, control risk, minimize the need for a "Rainy Day Fund," provide the state with the flexibility to cope with changing economic and demographic conditions, and attract needed capital.

CEU Vice President King mentioned that in addition to the burgeoning population growth in school-age children, our country is seeing an increasing growth in the number of senior citizens. He pointed out it will cost more to care for an 80-year-old senior citizen than a first-grader, for example.

Regent Barrett asked what position the Regents should take on this issue. She suggested that the State Board of Regents, State Board of Education, institutional Boards of Trustees and individual school boards speak out unitedly and collectively in support of tax reform. Commissioner Kendell pointed out that an alliance had been created with public education to keep our students in school until they graduate, to encourage them to prepare for college and then to go to college and get a degree. Cultural, political and legislative leaders must also join in this investment in our state.

Vice Chair Pitcher thanked Dr. Cornia for his presentation. Chair Karras suggested that he be invited to make the same presentation to the USHE Boards of Trustees, the State Board of Education, and the local school boards.

State Building Board's Final Recommendations on Capital Projects

Assistant Commissioner Walthers referred to the attachments to Tab L in the Regents' folders. At the conclusion of the September Board meeting, the Regents requested a report on the Building Board's priorities of state capital projects. The results were:

USHE Projects	Regents' Priority	Bldg Board's <u>USHE Rank</u>	Bldg Board's State Rank
WSU Class Room Building/Chiller Plant	1	2	6
USU Relocation of Innovation Campus	1	4	11
USU Agriculture/Classroom Replacement Bldg	2	6	16
UVSC Digital Learning Center	3	1	1
SLC Digital Design/South City Campus Student Ctr	4	5	15
DSC Science Building Addition	5	7	20
CEU Fine Arts Replacement	6	8	21
SUU Science Center Addition	7	9	22
Snow College-County Library/Classroom Building	8	3	9
	Trustees'	Bldg Board's	Bldg Board's
UCAT Projects	<u>Priority</u>	UCAT Rank	State Rank
DATC Technology/Manufacturing	1	2	8
MATC North Utah County Campus	2	3	13
UBATC/USU Vernal Campus	3	1	2
OWATC Health Technology Building	4	4	17

Regent Pitcher invited DFCM Deputy Director Ken Nye to comment on the State Building Board's actions. Mr. Nye reported that the Building Board agreed that the prison in Gunnison had to be funded next year, so some other projects were moved down on the list. Building Board members considered how their rankings compared with the Regents' recommendations and agreed that the Regents had ranked their projects appropriately.

The State Building Board understood that the Regents did not wish to prioritize the USU relocation with the other higher education capital projects, so they will consider it with other economic development projects at their next meeting. They felt strongly that USU's Agriculture Building should be replaced but were concerned about the size of the replacement project. Had the facility been smaller, it would probably have ranked much higher. The Building Board ranked UVSC's Digital Learning Center as its #1 priority in the state because the large high schools in the Salt Lake Valley have 75% more library space than UVSC. Snow's project scored well because the Building Board had been hearing for several years about the critical need for libraries on college campuses. They also thought the Regents may have scored that project lower because it is a small institution. Mr. Nye commented that SLCC's facility would probably score better next year because Building Board members now have a better understanding of the project.

Regent Jordan commented that it was extremely frustrating to have spent so much time trying to prioritize higher education projects, only to have them totally scrapped by the State Building Board. This indicates a fundamental communication failure between the two boards. If the Building Board had questions or needed further details about the Regents' ranking or any of the higher education projects, the Regents' expectation is that they would ask for clarification. Commissioner Kendell said the fundamental difference is in the way the two boards approach these projects. The Regents' process is quantitative, whereas the Building Board members vote their

preferences. "Q" points, life safety considerations, and donations are key factors in the Regents' process. The Commissioner and his staff will work with the DFCM staff to assure the Building Board understands Regent priorities.

## Reports of Board Committees

Academic, CTE, and Student Success (Programs) Committee

<u>Utah State University – Ph.D. Degree in Geology</u> (Tab A). Vice Chair Jordan reported that the committee heard a presentation in significant detail from the department faculty about the need for more earth scientists at the Ph.D. level, in Utah as well as regionally and nationally. The committee was assured that teaching would continue to be done in both the undergraduate and master's levels by full-time faculty, not Teaching Assistants. **Regent Jordan moved approval of USU's Ph.D. Degree in Geology. The motion was seconded by Regent Barrett and carried.** 

<u>Consent Calendar, Programs Committee</u> (Tab B). On motion by Regent Jordan and second by Regent Snow, the following items were approved on the Programs Committee's Consent Calendar:

- 1. Dixie State College
  - A. Discontinuance of the Auto Body AAS Degree and applicable certificates
  - B. Discontinuance of the Office Administration AS and AAS Degrees and applicable certificates
  - C. Discontinuance of the General Drafting AS and AAS Degrees and applicable certificates
- 2. Southern Utah University Emphasis in Architectural/Civil Design Technology within the Engineering Technology major

Information Calendar, Programs Committee (Tab C). Vice Chair Jordan reported that CEU had relabeled some of its biology courses to make them compatible with the USHE common course numbering system.

<u>Proposed Revisions to Policy R411, Review of Existing Programs</u> (Tab D). The Regents determined in their last meeting that policy R411should include more detail for continuing program reviews. Vice Chair Jordan moved approval of the proposed revisions, with one amendment. Section 5.1.2 was amended to read: "Institutional CAOs shall provide summaries of the annual results of program reviews to the office of Academic Affairs. The summaries should include institutional procedures, major findings, five-year enrollment and budget data, all recommendations, <u>comments</u>, significant issues, <u>and plans for addressing those issues."</u> The motion was seconded by Regent Barrett and carried.

Regent Pitcher thanked Vice Chair Jordan for his report.

### Finance, Facilities and Accountability Committee

<u>Utah Valley State College – Campus Master Plan</u> (Tab E). Chair Atkin said college officials had told the committee that the existing campus space will probably be sufficient for another 20 years. They raised a question of whether or not to consider land banking for future growth needs. The committee suggested that this be included in the college's five-year plan. Chair Atkin moved approval of UVSC's Campus Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Regent Jensen and carried.

<u>Dixie State College – Follow-up on College Building Purchase</u> (Tab F). Chair Atkin said the purchase of an apartment building to be used for married student housing at Dixie State College had been approved at the last

Board meeting, subject to final approval by the Commissioner following a 45-day due diligence. Since that time, college officials determined that a revenue bond for the purchase would be a better option. The purchase will be subsidized by other auxiliary services. The College's net-revenue-to-bond-payment coverage ratio exceeds the requirement of the bond covenants. As noted in Replacement Tab F, such authorization requires formal Regent approval and must be authorized by the Legislature. Regent Atkin noted that affordable housing is becoming an increasing priority, and this is a desirable piece of property next to the campus. **Chair Atkin moved approval of the College's proposal to issue revenue bonds for the purchase of student housing. The motion was seconded by Regent Grant and adopted**. Chair Atkin noted that this would return for final approval by the Regents after it has been authorized by the Legislature.

<u>Consent Calendar, Finance Committee</u> (Tab G). On motion by Chair Atkin and second by Regent Holbrook, the following items were approved on the Finance Committee's Consent Calendar:

- 1. UofU and USU Capital Facilities Delegation Reports
- 2. Authorization for Commissioner Kendell to opt for a car allowance rather than a state-owned vehicle

<u>Fall 2005 Third-Week Enrollment Report</u> (Tab H). Chair Atkin noted that three institutions' enrollments were down in headcount and seven were down in budget-related FTE. The committee requested five-year projected enrollment estimates.

<u>Report on USHE Recent Bond Activities</u> (Tab I). Chair Atkin said this report had been requested by the Regents and was presented for information only. Details were provided on the WSU Sheperd Union Building Bonds, SUU Refunding Bonds, and UHEAA Student Loan Revenue Bonds.

<u>Review of Institutional Five-Year Plans</u> (Tab J). Chair Atkin said the committee had discussed various ways of considering this information in the future. Chair Karras recalled that the committee had also requested a report of anticipated growth at private institutions so we will know how to provide the training for the need being filled by the private schools. Regent Jordan told of a recent NPR story about the exploding number of private advisors counseling high school students on getting into college, selecting the right major, applying for financial aid, etc. The customary charge for a two-year service was \$3000 per students.

Vice Chair Pitcher thanked Chair Atkin for his report.

# General Consent Calendar

On motion by Regent Atkin and second by Regent Snow, the following items were approved on the Regents' General Consent Calendar (Tab M):

- A. <u>Minutes</u> Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the State Board of Regents held September 15-16, 2005, at Utah State University in Logan, Utah
- B. <u>Grant Proposals</u> (on file in the Commissioner's Office)
- C. Grant Awards

	1.	University of Utah – University of Utah – National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; "Utah Autism Program;" \$1,108,893. William M. McMahon, Principal Investigator.
	2.	University of Utah – Huntsman Cancer Foundation; "Huntsman Cancer Institute - FY 2005-2006;" \$10,000,000. Randall W. Burt, Principal Investigator.
	3.	University of Utah – National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute; "Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program;" \$1,229,509. Wallace L. Akerley, Principal Investigator.
	4.	University of Utah – National Institutes of Health/National Library of Medicine; "National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM);" \$1,187,270. Wayne J. Peay, Principal Investigator.
	5.	University of Utah – National Institutes of Health/National Heart Lung & Blood Institute; "Genetics and Consequences of Nicotine Addiction;" \$2,359,864. John R. Hoidal, Principal Investigator.
	6.	University of Utah – National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse; "Differential Effects of Methamphetamine and Cocaine;" \$1,056,611. James W. Gibb, Principal Investigator.
	7.	University of Utah – Utah Department of Human Services (Prime HHS/Administration on Children and Families); "Title IV-E: Training Grant;" \$1,695,349. Norma J. Harris, Principal Investigator.
	8.	University of Utah – National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging; "The Utah Study of Fertility, Longevity and Aging;" \$1,183,304. Ken R. Smith, Principal Investigator.
	9.	Utah State University – US DOD/US Navy; "Time Critical Sensor Image/Data Processing Task Order #3;" \$1,050,000. Niel Holt, Principal Investigator.
	10.	Utah State University – National Science Foundation; "National Center for Engineering and Technology Education;" \$2,341,827. Christine Hailey, Principal Investigator; Kurt Becker and Maurice Thomas, Co-Principal Investigators.
	11.	Utah State University – Hewlett Foundation; "Stimulating the Development and Use of Open Educational Resources;" \$1,500,000. David Wiley, Principal Investigator.
D.		ed Policy Revisions endments to Policy R603, Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan Program. During the 2005

A. <u>Amendments to Policy R603,</u> *Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan Program.* During the 2005 General Session, the Utah Legislature passed H.B. 74 amending the statute establishing the Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan Program. Specifically, HB 74 expands eligibility for the program to part-time students and emphasizes that incentive loans shall be awarded to students preparing to teach in critical areas of need, which may include special education teachers, speech or language pathologists, and any other licensed professionals providing services to pupils with disabilities. Therefore, this policy has been revised to reflect these amendments. New language has been added to clarify that part-time students are eligible for the awards, and to emphasize that awards should be made consistent with the Utah State Office of Education's criticality index of high-need areas.

- B. <u>Amendments to Policy R952</u>, *Discrimination*, *Harassment*, *and Staff Employment Grievances*. The hearing guidelines of this policy are revised to clarify the role of advisors, if any, in the hearing process. Also, the amendments describe the materials to be considered by the various decision makers, as well as the persons from whom the decision makers may seek advice.
- C. <u>Amendments to Policy R981, Procurement</u>. These amendments replace the Office of the Commissioner's adoption by reference of the University of Utah procurement regulations. This more detailed policy is based on the University regulations as modified to meet the needs of the Office of the Commissioner.
- D. <u>New Policy R985, *Personal Communications Device Program.*</u> This policy authorizes the Office of the Commissioner to support the use of personal communications devices by selected employees. The office can either provide the device and pay the activations fees, or subsidize the acquisition of an employee owned device and provide a periodic reimburse-ment to the employee for activation fees relating to Office business.

# Strategic Directions for Utah Higher Education

Commissioner Kendell referred to the update to Tab N in the Regents' folders, which more clearly stated the objectives of each strategic theme.

<u>I. K-16</u>. A K-16 Alliance has been formalized. Governor Huntsman has indicated that he would like to serve on the Alliance. In addition, legislative leadership has been asked to nominate people to serve on the Alliance. The Expectations Document has been developed to inform students that they need to begin in high school to prepare for college admission. Religious and political leaders will also be contacted to solicit their support.

<u>VI. Economic Development</u>. The Regents' Economic Development Committee has been appointed and has begun to meet. The Commissioner noted that all priorities shown for Year I had been accomplished.

Commissioner Kendell stated that this was a working document. It will be updated for each Board meeting.

### Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Kendell commented that Dr. Cornia's presentation was very sobering. He suggested that it would be helpful for Dr. Cornia to make his presentation around the state. The Commissioner pointed out that if the flat tax is enacted, the 529 tax deduction for UESP would be eliminated.

Commissioner Kendell asked the Regents to read the Highlights of Notable Accomplishments in their folders.

## Report of the Chair

Chair Karras said Regent Barrett had suggested that the Board evaluate itself. She will put together some ideas to be presented to the Regents for their future consideration.

### Utah State University Memorial Service

On behalf of the President Albrecht and the entire USU family, Vice President Ford thanked everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and condolences following the September 26 automobile accident which took the lives of eight students and an instructor. A memorial service will be held at 1:30 pm on Monday, November 7, in the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum to pay tribute to those who were killed in that tragic accident. President Albrecht and Elder L. Tom Perry will speak, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir will perform at the service. Vice President Ford thanked Regent Pitcher for helping to move the student from Oregon to a hospital in Portland to be near his family.

## Adjournment

Vice Chair Pitcher thanked President Sederburg and his staff for their hospitality and for allowing the Regents to meet on UVSC's beautiful campus. He announced a brief meeting of the Regents' Executive Committee immediately following this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Joyce Cottrell CPS Executive Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_Date Approved