

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS  
COLLEGE OF EASTERN UTAH, PRICE, UTAH  
APRIL 21, 2006**

Regents Present

Nolan E. Karras, Chair  
Jerry C. Atkin  
Daryl C. Barrett  
Bonnie Jean Beesley  
Janet A. Cannon  
Rosanita Cespedes  
Katharine B. Garff  
David J. Grant  
Greg W. Haws  
Meghan Holbrook  
Michael R. Jensen  
David J. Jordan  
Josh M. Reid  
Sara V. Sinclair

Regents Excused

Jed H. Pitcher, Vice Chair  
James S. Jardine  
Gaby Kingery  
Marlon O. Snow

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  
Harden R. Eyring, Director of Human Resources  
David A. Feitz, UHEAA Associate Executive Director for Policy and Development  
Carrie Flamm, Executive Director, Utah Student Association  
Brian Foisy, Assistant Commissioner for Financial Services  
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 N. Ward, Director, Utah Educational Savings Plan  
Gary S. Wixom, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs

**INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

University of Utah

David W. Pershing, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Paul T. Brinkman, Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning  
Michael G. Perez, Associate Vice President for Administrative Services

Utah State University

Stan A. Albrecht, President

Joyce Kinkead, Vice President for Undergraduate Studies and Research

Weber State University  
F. Ann Millner, President

Southern Utah University  
Steven D. Bennion, President

Snow College  
Michael T. Benson, President

Dixie State College  
Lee G. Caldwell, President  
Donna Dillingham-Evans, Academic Vice President  
Stanley J. Plewe, Vice President of College Services  
Scott Talbot, Executive Director, Business Services

College of Eastern Utah  
Ryan L. Thomas, President  
Michael King, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Utah Valley State College  
William A. Sederburg, President  
Brad Cook, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
William Cobb, Dean of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences  
Gary Naisbitt, Director of Forensic Science  
D. Terry Petrie, Theatre Department  
J. Karl Worthington, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs

Salt Lake Community College  
David Richardson, Vice President for Academic Services  
Julie Curtis, Assistant Vice President for Academic Services  
Kent Ferrel, Interim Vice President for Business Services

Utah College of Applied Technology  
Jared Haines, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services

Representatives of the Media  
Shinika Sykes, Salt Lake Tribune  
Amy Stewart, Ogden Standard Examiner  
Erin Stewart, Deseret Morning News

Others

Steve Allred, Legislative Fiscal Analyst's Office  
Brian Baker, Zions Bank Public Finance  
Mark Edminster, Lewis Young Inc  
Carl Empey, Zions Bank Public Finance  
Kim Hood, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget  
Randy Larsen, Ballard Spahr  
Spencer Pratt, Legislative Fiscal Analyst's Office

#### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Regents met in the Jennifer Leavitt Student Center on the College of Eastern Utah campus in Price. Chair Karras called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Regent Atkin moved that the Board meet in executive session to discuss personnel and property issues. Regent Grant seconded the motion, which carried.

The group reconvened in Committee of the Whole at 9:12 a.m. Chair Karras excused Vice Chair Pitcher and Regents Jardine, Kingery, and Snow.

Appointment of SUU Interim President. Chair Karras announced that Dr. Gregory L. Stauffer had been appointed Interim President of Southern Utah University, effective on a date in mid-May agreeable to Dr. Stauffer and President Bennion.

SUU Presidential Search Committee. Chair Karras announced a search committee had been appointed for the SUU presidency. Regent David Grant will chair the committee, assisted by Regents Jerry Atkin and Meghan Holbrook. Other members of the committee include trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and representatives of the community.

The Regents were dismissed at 9:15 a.m. to meet with their respective committees. The Committee of the Whole reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

#### REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

##### Programs Committee (Regent David Jordan, Acting Chair)

Utah Valley State College – Bachelor of Arts Degree in Forensic Science (Tab A). Chair Jordan said this program was built upon the strong programs already in place in the criminal justice area as well as the computer science and accounting departments. The request was approved by the Program Review Committee, and the Commissioner recommended approval. No negative comments were received from other institutions. UVSC provided evidence of student and market demand. Chair Jordan said UVSC had received some one-time federal funding to purchase lab equipment. The college is establishing a full forensics laboratory. UVSC has received assurances from the crime labs that this program will be certified within the state system. Students will receive in-service training at this lab and in this program for law enforcement officials in Utah County and other areas of the state. Regent Karras asked to see the data from the institutional survey. **Chair Jordan**

**moved approval of UVSC's Bachelor of Arts Degree in Forensic Science. Regent Beesley seconded the motion. Vote was taken on the motion, which was adopted.**

Utah Valley State College – Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Degree Programs in Theatre Arts, Bachelor of Science Degree in Theatre Education, Theatre Arts Minor (Tab B). Chair Jordan said this request had been held back by the moratorium and came back to the PRC as a much stronger proposal. He thanked Vice President Brad Cook for his thorough report to the committee. The proposal has received institutional input and peer review, and there is strong student demand. Theatre education is in significant demand in secondary education. **Chair Jordan moved approval of UVSC's theatre programs. The motion was seconded by Regent Garff and adopted.**

Consent Calendar, Programs Committee (Tab C). Chair Jordan called attention to Weber State University's proposal to eliminate its Bachelor of Applied Technology Degree on page 3. The BAT Degree was created by the Legislature and approved by the Regents three years ago. However, there has not been interest in this degree. Students coming from the UCAT campuses are interested in more traditional degrees. Chair Jordan reflected that the system was doing such a good job of articulating into traditional degree programs that the BAT Degree is not perceived necessary. **Upon motion by Chair Jordan and second by Regent Cespedes, the following items were approved on the Programs Committee's Consent Calendar:**

1. University of Utah – Undergraduate Certificate, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Training Program
2. Weber State University
  - A. New Department of Automotive Technology
  - B. Discontinue Emphasis Areas in Bachelor of Visual Arts Program
  - C. Discontinue Bachelor of Applied Technology Degree
3. Salt Lake Community College – Fast-track Medical Billing Certificate of Proficiency
4. Utah College of Applied Technology – Fast-track Certificates of Proficiency
  - A. Davis ATC – Pharmacy and Composite Materials
  - B. Mountainland ATC – Certificates Approved for Financial Aid

Information Calendar (Tab D). Regent Karras referred to pages 10-12, Salt Lake Community College, and asked if this was typical of the data coming out of institutional surveys. Students, employers, and alumni are surveyed and the data collected for each survey. Chair Jordan commended the Academic Affairs staff for the thorough report.

Academic Majors' Meeting (Tab E). Chair Jordan asked Assistant Commissioner Safman to report on the work of the committee. Dr. Safman reported that Majors' meetings are held annually, assisted by the General Education Task Force. Attendance has outgrown the capacity of the Board of Regents Building. This year the meetings were held on SLCC's Larry H. Miller Campus, where institutional representatives from 30 majors met on the same day. Faculty appreciate the opportunity to meet with colleagues in their respective disciplines to discuss what is going on at each of the institutions. There is no longer concern about common course numbers. This year transfer and articulation were primary concerns. Concurrent enrollment was discussed as well. Dr. Safman noted some faculty misconception about concurrent enrollment. Policy R165

gives departments control over concurrent enrollment programs. They approve curriculum and faculty and assure that the same standards are met in the high schools as on the college campuses. The discussion revealed the need to bring developmental education representatives together, which was done subsequently. Faculty appreciated the opportunity to discuss content and expectations of the students.

Dr. Safman said the majors' meetings are totally faculty-driven. There is some concern that the information does not filter down far enough so that faculty understand what is being done across the system. Notes and changes will be posted to the Web CT and USHE web sites. Dr. Safman noted that Utah is the only state to hold majors' meetings. Utah has also been at the forefront of transfer and articulation.

Regent Beesley stated it is important to recognize when something important happens. Utah is able to lead these efforts because of our strong system. Chair Jordan referred to page 7 of the report, noting the institutions are working on these issues and recognize the challenges. Regent Karras thanked Dr. Safman for her report and credited her with the program's success. He commended Chair Jordan for his succinct report.

Finance Committee (Regent Jerry Atkin, Chair)

Engineering, Computer Science and Technology 2006-2007 Funding Recommendations from the Technology Initiative Advisory Board (Tab N). John Sutherland, Chair of the TIAB, participated in the discussion by Polycom. Commissioner Kendell thanked Mr. Sutherland for his service over the years as chair of the Technology Initiative Advisory Board. The TIAB was originally organized during Governor Leavitt's administration, in conjunction with the Engineering Initiative. Allocations for the Engineering Initiative have had a tremendous impact on the state, clearly showing the results of the Legislature's investment. The TIAB has met with every institution and their respective deans. This year their work was complicated by the fact that the Legislature appropriated only \$500,000 ongoing and \$700,000 one-time funding to the Initiative.

Mr. Sutherland said he appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Regents electronically. Each year the TIAB gathers reports from the institutions on how they have spent the money they were allocated the previous year. Board members meet with the deans to understand how the money was used and what is needed to continue going forward at their respective institutions. The TIAB has broad representation with members from several areas of the state. The board agreed on the principles by which to make decisions, and there were no dissenting votes.

Mr. Sutherland noted a nearly 50% increase in the number of graduates throughout the institutions. Governor Leavitt's challenge was to double the number of engineering graduates in five years. Although this goal has not quite been reached, neither has the funding been appropriated as hoped. Ongoing allocations have enabled the institutions to grow the programs and their capacity and hire new faculty for new programs. Proposed distribution for 2006-2007 was shown on page 3 of the Commissioner's cover memo to Tab N.

Regent Jensen asked for the cumulative allocations for the institutions and how funding had been allocated. He asked if the board had looked at transfer students at the community colleges as well as at the universities. Allocations have been directed more at the research universities than at helping transfer students. He pointed out an unusually high percentage of students from CEU go on to computer sciences, technology or professional degrees at other institutions. Those students also need ongoing support.

Mr. Sutherland said bottlenecks were initially identified in the four-year institutions. The University of Utah has 30% transfer students, most of whom transfer from SLCC. One of the challenges faced by the institutions is knowing how many students will transfer. If institutions were able to track this more thoroughly, it would help the TIAB in its deliberations. Some of the requests for ongoing funds have been to create computer labs. Priority was given to the hiring of new faculty, however, rather than to funding laboratories.

SLCC Vice President Richardson pointed out that SLCC completion is not necessarily indicated by the degrees awarded. Some students transfer to the University or elsewhere before they get a degree from a community college. The University of Utah would be able to report how many of their transfer students come from SLCC. Before an institution can hire new faculty, it needs instrumentation, equipment, instructional materials and labs to attract students and to help them get into the educational experience. Mr. Sutherland responded that the TIAB only had \$500,000 ongoing funding this year, and it was allocated to institutions that (1) wanted to hire new faculty and (2) had a documented growth of graduates. The board feels strongly that labs should not be funded with ongoing money from the Engineering Initiative, especially in times of scarce resources. Equipment should be funded with other sources, such as private donations.

**Regent Beesley moved approval of the Technology Initiative Advisory Board's recommendations. Regent Grant seconded the motion, which carried, with Regent Jensen voting against the motion.** Regent Jensen said his vote had not been a reflection of the hard work of the TIAB. It was a plea for the board to look out for the transfer students. Mr. Sutherland thanked him and said he respected Regent Jensen's point of view. He asked for more data to support his request next year.

Chair Karras said the Regents appreciate the money from the Legislature but could not understand, in a year with more revenues than usual, why the Legislature did not better fund its own initiatives. Commissioner Kendell said the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee is very supportive of the Engineering Initiative. All of the engineering companies have openings in high-paying jobs. E-Systems cannot fill all of their openings, and ATK Thiokol is in the same situation. Other engineering companies are experiencing many openings. More than 30 people from the engineering industry filled the hearing room this year when this line item was presented to the Higher Education Subcommittee. When the discussion ended, the room emptied. He asked Mr. Sutherland to comment.

Mr. Sutherland responded that allocating the money is a data-driven process. Are the institutions using the funds in a way to get results? Are the programs growing? He committed to take a strong message to the Legislature next year that more funding is needed. He requested clearer data on transfer students when decisions are made next year. Chair Karras asked Associate Commissioner Buhler to work with the legislators on this issue prior to the next legislative session.

University of Utah – Sale of Property (Tab F). Chair Atkin explained that the property in question was a condo in Utah County that had been donated to the University. Proceeds of the sale will be used by the Department of Hematology in the manner intended by the donors. **Chair Atkin moved approval of the sale. Regent Grant seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

Dixie State College – Approving Resolution, Auxiliary System Revenue Bonds (Tab G). Chair Atkin explained that this purchase had previously been approved as a non-state funded project. Dixie State College now proposes to purchase the building for student housing. A \$350,000 down payment will be made from the college's auxiliary reserve, with the balance financed through a revenue bond backed by all college auxiliary revenues. **Chair Atkin moved approval of the bond purchase. The motion was seconded by Regent Grant and adopted with the following vote:**

AYE:

Jerry C. Atkin  
Daryl C. Barrett  
Bonnie Jean Beesley  
Rosanita Cespedes  
Katharine B. Garff  
David J. Grant  
Meghan Holbrook  
Michael R. Jensen  
David J. Jordan  
Nolan E. Karras  
Josh Reid  
Sara V. Sinclair

NAY: (None)

Dixie State College – Approving Resolution, Refunding Bonds (Tab H). Chair Atkin explained that the Regents had issued bonds in 1999 to refinance the costs incurred in conjunction with the college's acquisition of the Dixie Center (now the Avenna Center). College officials wish to refund the Series 1999A Bond to achieve interest rate savings. The proposed bond will result in anticipated net savings of approximately \$270,000. **Chair Atkin moved approval of the bond authorization. The motion was seconded by Regent Grant and adopted with the following vote:**

AYE:

Jerry C. Atkin  
Daryl C. Barrett  
Bonnie Jean Beesley  
Rosanita Cespedes  
Katharine B. Garff  
David J. Grant  
Meghan Holbrook  
Michael R. Jensen  
David J. Jordan  
Nolan E. Karras  
Josh Reid  
Sara V. Sinclair

NAY: (None)

Salt Lake Community College – Purchase of Property Adjacent to South City Campus (New agenda item). Chair Atkin explained that this item had been pulled from the previous agenda at the request of SLCC Trustees. The property will be purchased at its appraised value of \$250,000, with funding from one-time reserves in the physical plant specifically set aside for property acquisition. **Chair Atkin moved approval of SLCC's property purchase. Regent Grant seconded the motion, which carried.**

College of Eastern Utah – Campus Master Plan (Tab I). President Thomas distributed copies of the San Juan Campus Master Plan to replace the copy mailed with the agenda. The Library and Health Sciences Building is new to the San Juan master plan. It will open in June and is very important to the community, as well as being a wonderful anchor for the campus. A new education building and pavilion and residential quad have also been added since the master plan was last approved. The 2011 plan for the San Juan Campus shows the addition of a wellness center which will be funded with a revenue bond involving the city of Blanding as well as student funds. This facility will provide recreational facilities to be shared with the city. The original building on campus would become an administration building. The major change on the Price Campus master plan is the new Reeves Building. The college wishes to purchase the Armory, LDS Church building (which would become home of the SEATC), and an existing rest home to be acquired as expansion space. By 2011 the campus would include a new health sciences center, a library to be shared with the cities of Price and Wellington, expansion of the ATE space, the addition of physical education space in the present Armory space, and a new fine arts complex. President Thomas said the Price campus had an enrollment of 2300 (headcount) and the San Juan campus has a headcount enrollment between five and six hundred. **Chair Atkin moved approval of CEU's Master Plans for both campuses. Regent Holbrook seconded the motion, which carried.** Chair Karras said President Thomas would like the Regents to see the existing fine arts facility following their meeting with the CEU Board of Trustees.

College of Eastern Utah – Purchase of Energy Center (Tab J). Chair Atkin reported the Legislature had appropriated \$1.1 million to CEU for the purchase of a facility to house the Western States Energy Center. President Thomas explained that the Center is a collaborative effort between CEU, SEATC, the USHE, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Workforce Services, and an industry group comprised of more than 200 companies. It is in the area of the Willow Creek Mine, located ten miles north of Price. Reclamation has already been done on the 271 acres. The purchase includes three buildings already on the property. President Thomas said the Energy Center is vital to the Price area, with more than 500 producing wells south of Price and that many more north of town. Two coal mines are slated to open in the next two years, each of which will employ approximately 250 miners. In addition, a major oil field was discovered recently south of Richfield. Projections are that energy-related positions will be among the fastest-growing sector of employment for the next several years at an approximately 16% increase per year. Two-year and four-year degrees are very attractive to major industry producers. The Energy Center will also provide CEU an opportunity to create joint research efforts and manufacturing potential.

Regent Beesley noted that the Uintah Basin ATC had been increasing its training programs to address opportunities in the field of energy. She asked if there had been coordination with CEU. President Thomas responded that CEU had indicated it would like to be UBATC's marketing partner. A similar offer could be made to Snow/Richfield.



Regent Jordan referred to the Reclamation Obligations on page 2 of the summary agreement, noting that the title to 3.9 acres was conditional upon reclamation. He asked if this was a potential liability to the college. David Jones, Assistant Attorney General, responded that while the college would take title before the bond is released, permanent reclamation obligations would remain with the seller, not with CEU. Anticipated closing date is July 15, with the bond release expected this fall. There are conditions that would limit ability to use and access the 3.9 acres until the State Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGGM) releases the bond. Regent Jordan said the reality of the contractual agreement between the buyer and seller was that the college would inherit reclamation obligations under the law. The seller's bond covers these reclamations. Mr. Jones said the 3.9 acres have been completely reclaimed. He clarified that the bond would cover much more than the 271 acres. Language was written into the agreement to hold the college harmless from any of seller's reclamation obligations or the need to comply with those obligations. The 3.9-acre portion was erroneously omitted by the seller when the larger parcel was reclaimed for industrial use, and was instead reclaimed for wildlife use.

**Chair Atkin moved approval of CEU's purchase of the Western States Energy Center and indicated the Legislature had given tacit approval by approving the bond. Regent Beesley seconded the motion. Vote was taken; the motion carried.**

Consent Calendar, Finance Committee (Tab K). **On motion by Chair Atkin and second by Regent Grant, the Regents approved the University of Utah's and Utah State University's Capital Delegation Reports.**

Financial Aid Briefing (Tab L) and Capital Improvement Allocations (Tab M). Chair Atkin called attention to the reports which were included for the Regents' information only.

#### General Consent Calendar

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

- A. Minutes – Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the State Board of Regents held March 10, 2006, at the Board of Regents' offices in Salt Lake City, Utah
- B. Grant Proposals – On file in the Commissioner's Office
- C. Grant Awards
  1. University of Utah – National Science Foundation; "Proposal to Operate and Analyze Data from the High Resol...."; \$1,200,001. Charles Jui, Principal Investigator.
  2. Utah State University – NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory; "Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE);" \$1,824,213. Scott Schick, Principal Investigator.

D. Proposed Policy Revisions

1. R512, *Determination of Resident Status*. During the 2006 legislative session, the Utah Legislature passed two bills, HB 232 and SB 174, amending the statute defining "resident student." HB 232 provides that United States Armed Forces personnel who had Utah residency immediately prior to being deployed to active duty outside Utah, and who, during the period of deployment, establish residency in another state, may immediately become eligible for resident student status in Utah upon re-establishing residency at the end of their active duty deployment. S.B. 174 grants resident student status to members of the Utah National Guard, regardless of their residence. Policy R512 has been revised to reflect these amendments
2. Replacement R915, *Staff Employee Separations*, is limited to non-disciplinary separations from OCHE employment such as resignations, job abandonment, retirement, or unavailability.
3. Current policy R952, *Discrimination, Harassment, and Staff Employment Grievances*, is replaced by R951, *Staff Employee Grievances*, and R952, *Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Complaints*. The procedural due processes for the two types of complaints are sufficiently distinct as to warrant that they be handled pursuant to separate policies.
4. R963, *Reduction in Force and Severance Pay*, replaces policies R963, *Reduction in Force*, and R965, *Payment in Lieu of Notice*. It provides additional guidance to the reduction in force policy, required notice of action, severance pay in lieu of notice, and the employee's grievance rights.
5. R964, *Corrective Action and Termination of Staff Personnel*, replaces policy R964, *Disciplinary Sanctions of Staff Personnel*. The new policy allows for limited or expedited procedures and review where less serious corrective actions are proposed, while giving full weight and consideration of issues where serious action, such as termination or demotion, are to be taken. Procedures are set forth to guide the application of the policy.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Kendell thanked President Thomas and his wife, Ann, for their hospitality. He noted Ann had helped with the breakfast earlier. He congratulated Dr. Stauffer on his appointment as Interim President of Southern Utah University. The Commissioner reported that qualifications for the New Century Scholarship have been revised to include a 3.0 GPA for applicants. A math and science option has also added to promote a more rigorous high school curriculum. Formal requirements will be developed for Regent action.

Commissioner Kendell reported the institutions would receive \$36.6 million for the ongoing maintenance and improvements of USHE facilities. He thanked the Legislature for their support. He called attention to an article from *Money Magazine* citing UESP as one of the greatest programs in the country of its kind. UESP investments currently exceed \$1.5 billion. Investors also receive a tax credit. Commissioner Kendell said he hoped this credit could be continued when the tax system is revised.

The Commissioner asked the Regents to read his report of Institutional Highlights. Remarkable achievements are taking place at our institutions. He commented briefly on each institution's success.

### USTAR Initiative Update

Commissioner Kendell referred to Tab Q and asked Associate Commissioner Buhler to comment on some of the most important things to emerge from the report, followed by comments from UofU Senior Vice President Pershing and USU President Albrecht. Chair Karras remarked that one of the Senators had challenged the Regents to make sure the USTAR program works.

Associate Commissioner Buhler said the USTAR Initiative was a business-led effort. He recognized Scott Anderson, CEO of Zions Bank, for spearheading the legislation on behalf of the business community. He thanked Regent Holbrook, in her capacity as a Zions Bank employee, for coordinating lobbying efforts at the Capitol in support of the legislation. The Legislature appropriated \$11 million for research teams at the two research universities, \$250,000 for administrative costs, and \$4 million for technology outreach. This is in addition to continuing the \$4 million funded in 2005. Legislation provided bonding authorization of \$111 million in general obligation bonds (\$70.7 million for the University of Utah and \$40.4 for Utah State University), with the requirement for a \$40 million match from non-state funds (\$10 million from USU and \$30 million from UU). An additional \$4 million was provided for technology outreach programs to be established at up to five locations, to be determined by the governing authority. The goal is to help connect the research universities to resources across the state and to other higher education institutions.

The USTAR Governing Authority was created by the Legislature. Members include the State Treasurer, three members appointed by the Governor, two members appointed by the President of the Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of the House, and one member appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education. The Governor will appoint the chair, and the vice chair will be appointed jointly by the Senate President and Speaker of the House. Responsibilities of the Governing Authority were outlined in the attachment to Tab Q. A 12-member advisory council will also be established, with membership outlined in the report.

Dr. Pershing explained the concept of the USTAR Initiative was for the research universities to add new faculty, particularly in the form of teams, to help grow the state's economy. The University of Utah will construct teams of four faculty members in each area, working with graduate and postdoctoral students. In the area of neuroscience, the University is moving an entire group of researchers and investigators from a major East Coast university. The group has been spending time in Salt Lake City and collaborating with the university where they are presently located. Four faculty members are being recruited in computing, bioengineering, electrical engineering, and computer engineering. One of the four groups has accepted; offers have been extended to the other three.

Dr. Pershing explained that USTAR allows the universities to recruit faculty at a salary level not otherwise possible. The new faculty will, in turn, attract other top researchers to join them. The first program will focus on nanotechnology, nanoscience, information technology, energy, and personalized medicine.

President Albrecht shared Dr. Pershing's excitement at the opportunities the legislation has created. USU has hired new faculty for whom the institution would not otherwise have been competitive. They were

given three criteria: (1) build on USU's current strengths, (2) in areas with high potential for commercial success, and (3) align with strong Utah industry clusters. There is great synergy in collaboration with business and industry.

USU's focus areas are microtechnology, advanced nutrition, independent systems, infectious diseases, and water and watershed. Many areas of completion are possible in each of these fields. President Albrecht said one of his new faculty members had already received over \$24 million in grants and contracts. Another has 15 currently issued patents with others pending and has created three start-up companies as well.

Commissioner Kendell said he was pleased to see the outreach program included in USTAR legislation. The Initiative will not be successful unless the rest of the state is also engaged. Real opportunity exists for all of the institutions for workforce development, research opportunities, and local economic development. More work will need to be done to connect USTAR to other institutions and to foster regional economic development. Regent Grant requested the Regents be sent a summary of the ideas coming out of the USTAR Initiative.

#### Strategic Directions Update

Commissioner Kendell referred to Tab P. The Regents met in St George a year ago to discuss the most crucial issues for higher education. Some of those issues will lead to legislative issues and will require legislative support. The Commissioner briefly reported progress on each of the six strategic directions identified last year.

I. K-16: Increasing Expectations and Enhancing Student Success. The K-16 Alliance has made very good progress. The Alliance is meeting regularly and putting together some discipline-specific task forces to eliminate bottlenecks and articulation issues. The Alliance will launch an "Achieve to Succeed" program later this year to encourage eighth graders to prepare for college. The Regents Scholar Award has been approved in concept by the Regents, Presidents, and the State Board of Education, with good potential to energize the state. On behalf of the Alliance, Assistant Commissioner Doty applied for and received a \$300,000 WICHE grant to help increase rigor in the high school curriculum.

II. Improving Student Retention and Graduation Rates: Role of Remedial Education, Access, and Concurrent Enrollment. Higher education's request for a Student Success Initiative was not funded by the Legislature, but concurrent enrollment received much attention during the session. A bill to allow higher education institutions to charge up to \$30 per credit hour for concurrent enrollment classes offered in the high schools was later vetoed by the Governor.

III. Meeting the Needs of Disadvantaged and Minority Students. A task force has been organized on closing the achievement gap with minority and disadvantaged students. The task force is co-chaired by SLCC Vice President David Richardson and Assistant Commissioner David Doty.

IV. Building Utah's Workforce. A successful outcome of this goal is the Jobs Now Initiative. The Nursing

and Engineering Initiatives have helped drive Utah's economy. Commissioner Kendell is working with the State Board of Education on a Teacher Education Initiative to address the anticipated need in Utah for teachers in the public schools. Dr. David Sperry, retiring as Dean of the College of Education at the University of Utah, will coordinate this effort.

V. Linking Funding to Institutional Missions and Roles. The higher education community was disappointed that money was not appropriated by the Legislature for mission-based funding. We had also hoped for a 75/25 split on state appropriations to student tuition. The salary retention appropriation last year made a great difference on all campuses. This year's proposal failed in the final hours of the legislative session. Funding for infrastructure needs was provided for most categories.

VI. Economic Development/Building Institutional and Business Partnerships. Higher education is supportive of USTAR as a business-driven initiative. It will benefit all institutions through its regional innovation centers and outreach program. More planning and development must be done in this area.

Commissioner Kendell said it is important that the higher education community communicate better with the larger communities – businesses, parents, teachers, and others. He and his staff are working on a messaging strategy. Surveys and focus groups will be statewide. The message we need to convey is that higher education is the key to the state's future. Together, public and higher education drive the state's economy.

The Commissioner concluded that great progress has been made, but much still remains to be done. Support will be requested from the Legislature again next year for these important initiatives.

Chair Karras thanked Commissioner Kendell and commended him for all he has accomplished.

#### Report of the Chair

Chair Karras announced that Regent Josh Reid had been appointed to the Professional Educator Job Enhancement Committee (PEJEC), created by the Legislature in 2001 to advance the education of math and science teachers.

#### Adjournment

Chair Karras thanked President Thomas for hosting the Regents and asked him to convey the Board's appreciation to his staff. He asked the Regents to accompany President Thomas to the fine arts facility before they leave campus.

President Thomas invited Regents and others to tour the Prehistoric Museum. Tours to the Range Creek area can be arranged by calling the President's office.

**Regent Jensen moved adjournment of the meeting. Regent Atkin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m., after which the Regents met with the CEU Board

of Trustees for lunch.

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Joyce Cottrell CPS  
Executive Secretary

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Date Approved