

MINUTES OF MEETING  
STATE BOARD OF REGENTS  
DIXIE STATE COLLEGE, ST GEORGE,  
MARCH 20-21, 2008

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MINUTES OF MEETING  
STATE BOARD OF REGENTS PLANNING RETREAT  
DIXIE STATE COLLEGE, ST GEORGE, UTAH  
March 20, 2008

Regents Present

Jed H. Pitcher, Chair  
Bonnie Jean Beesley, Vice Chair  
Jerry C. Atkin  
Janet A. Cannon  
Rosanita Cespedes  
Amy Engh  
Katharine B. Garff  
Patti Harrington  
Greg W. Haws  
Meghan Holbrook  
David J. Jordan  
Nolan E. Karras  
Anthony W. Morgan  
Marlon O. Snow  
John H. Zenger

Regents Excused

James S. Jardine  
Josh M. Reid  
Sara V. Sinclair

Commissioner's Office

David L. Buhler, Interim Commissioner  
Joyce Cottrell, Executive Secretary  
Amanda Covington, Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs  
David S. Doty, Assistant Commissioner and Director of Policy Studies  
Kimberly Henrie, Assistant Commissioner for Budget and Planning  
Melissa Miller Kinkart, Executive Director, Utah Campus Compact  
Phyllis C. Safman, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs  
Mark H. Spencer, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Facilities  
Lucille T. Stoddard, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs  
Lynne S. 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  
Paul Gore, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology  
Stephen H. Hess, Chief Information Officer  
Kim Wirthlin, Vice President for Government Relations

Utah State University

Stan L. Albrecht, President

Weber State University

F. Ann Millner, President  
Michael Vaughan, Provost  
Janet Winniford, Student Affairs

Southern Utah University

Michael T. Benson, President  
Lynne Brown, Director, Student Support Center

Snow College

Scott L. Wyatt, President  
Craig Mathie, Dean of Student Services

Dixie State College

Lee G. Caldwell, President  
Jackie Freeman, Purchasing Director  
Frank B. Lojko, Interim Vice President of Student Services  
David Roos, Executive Director, Enrollment Management  
Mary Stubbs, Director, IT Support Services

College of Eastern Utah

Ryan L. Thomas, President

Utah Valley State College

William A. Sederburg, President  
Cheryl Hanewicz, Technology Management  
Elizabeth Hitch, Academic Vice President  
Michelle Taylor, Associate Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Enrollment Services

Salt Lake Community College

Cynthia A. Bioteau, President

Utah College of Applied Technology

Richard L. White, President  
Jared Haines, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services

Representatives of the Media

Brian Maffly, *Salt Lake Tribune*

Other Guests

Spencer Pratt, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
Vicki Varela, Special Consultant

Following lunch, Chair Pitcher welcomed everyone to St George and thanked them for clearing their busy schedules to be at the meeting. He excused Regents Jardine and Sinclair and announced that Regents Cannon, Cespedes and Jordan would be joining the group shortly; they had been bumped to a later flight.

Commissioner Buhler thanked his staff for their hard work in preparing for this planning retreat. Preparation has truly been a team effort. He thanked Vicki Varela for her help in planning the retreat.

Commissioner Buhler pointed out that over the last 20 years, the United States has dropped from first to tenth place among industrialized nations in the percentage of young adults holding college degrees. American students and young adults place in the middle to the bottom of the pack in math, science and literacy among advanced industrial nations.

Under former Commissioner Kendell's leadership, the Board of Regents have worked hard to improve college preparation and enrollment. The Utah Scholars program has grown from four school districts to nine, and continues to grow. The Regents' Scholarship Program received seed money from the Legislature during the recent General Session. The New Century Scholarship has grown from 13 to more than 430 students since its inception in 1999. In addition, the K-16 Alliance has developed a concurrent enrollment funding formula, established a common student identifier, and promoted a more rigorous high school curriculum. Another success is the tremendous growth of the Utah Educational Savings Plan. UESP now has nearly 120,000 accounts and \$2.4 billion in assets. Utahns hold 23 percent of UESP's accounts. We are pleased that UESP has consistently been ranked one of the top 529 college savings plans in the country.

Despite these gains, our participation rate dropped from 41 percent in 1992 to 34 percent in 2006. The Utah System of Higher Education has set a goal of increasing participation rates systemwide by one-half percent annually.

The third piece of the puzzle is persistence – keeping our students in school long enough to graduate. From one-third to nearly one-half of our students come to college for certificates or degrees and leave with few credits but substantial debt in student loans.

Commissioner Buhler made the following suggestions for increasing persistence in our schools:

1. We need to define success. This will include discussions with the larger community.
2. Let's talk more about what we know and don't know about the retention and persistence of today's students. Commissioner Buhler recommended that each institution establish retention and completion benchmarks for all students and report on them every year.

3. We need to collect best practices from all of our institutions and from around the country. The Commissioner called attention to the resource book provided to all Regents and Presidents as a reference throughout the coming year. It contained progress reports, a statement and data illustrating the challenges we face, information about possible solutions, and a copy of *Good Policy, Good Practice*.

4. We must be practical and solution-oriented about unique cultural issues. Utah institutions have young men and women stopping out to serve a church mission. Many of our students marry young and start their families while they're still in school. We must also create strategies for addressing the needs of our growing ethnic and minority populations.

Commissioner Buhler pointed out that many retention issues require greater resources; they also require more resourcefulness. We must be accountable to state policy makers and taxpayers for the way we use our resources. He asked the Regent and Presidents to be candid about the most critical issues facing higher education at this time, and to provide guidance in changing the momentum in college retention and persistence.

Chair Pitcher thanked Commissioner Buhler for his remarks. He encouraged the Regents and Presidents to read the material in the booklets they had been given.

The discussion began with discussion of the statement in "Adding it Up," that 61 percent of Utahns will need four-year degrees or other postsecondary training by 2025 to compete for jobs with others from best-performing nations. There was agreement that we need to know more before specifying an exact percentage; a realistic goal should be set, based on accurate data and demographics. We must be responsive to the market demand for jobs and keep the changing economy in mind. We must also involve the larger community in these discussions, particularly economic development leaders.

Kari Ellingson, Associate Vice President for Student Development at the University of Utah, moderated a panel of students, some of whom had returned to school after "stopping out" for various reasons. Kari asked each student to share the barriers they faced in attaining their educational goals and how they overcame those barriers. Student panelists included Ryan Huff and Tara Lamoreaux from SUU, Brandon Grover and Heather Bundy from Dixie, and Nidia Hartford, a student at the University of Utah.

Each student related why he or she had decided to go to college. One student responded, "Because I can." Another student said, "I'm worth it." They then identified some of the challenges they had experienced, including full-time jobs; student loans; credit cards; the time and expense of parenthood; balancing school, work and family responsibilities; physical disabilities; frustration getting into general education classes; and lack of adequate financial aid. When asked about academic preparation for college, responses ranged from a first-generation college student who was completely unprepared, academically and emotionally, to a student who had changed majors in order to qualify for a career that would support a family. One student was frustrated by her lack of ability to retain knowledge from classes taken before "stopping out," causing her to retake some of the classes for which she had already received credit. All of the students agreed that good advisors were critical to student success.

The students were asked for suggestions for improving retention. They gave the following responses: Financial aid should be realistic; it takes most students longer than four years to graduate. Housing for married students can be problematic. Some specific programs lack national accreditation and/or name recognition (prestige). There are not enough choices for taking required courses at various times. Affordability was another critical factor mentioned by most of the students. When asked to identify their biggest obstacle, every student agreed: Money.

Chair Pitcher thanked Ms. Ellingson for moderating the discussion. He thanked the students for their candid responses and wished them success in their future educational and professional pursuits.

Commissioner Buhler recognized the retention officers from the various institutions. He then announced the breakout groups and asked each group to identify and discuss the most critical issues facing higher education at this time. After those discussions, the Regents and Presidents reconvened to hear reports and recommendations from the group facilitators.

The first group, led by Vice Chair Beesley, gave as its priorities: (1) Focus on K-16 Alliance as an area to pursue, (2) streamlining technology, (3) importance of advising and counseling and working with K-16 Alliance. The second group, led by Regent Jordan, concluded that the System is not sufficiently student-centered and recommended the following: (1) The #1 issue with students is finances. The current schedules are not realistic in meeting students' time constraints. (2) Non-traditional students need more attention. (3) The Regents could give each institution the task of examining its service region and its students and coming back to the Regents with specific ways they could produce more student-centered models to increase retention and completers. (4) Improve participation. If institutions required four years of high school math, for example, as an entrance requirement, there would be a significant improvement in retention. (5) Advisement, with funding.

The third group, chaired by Regent Karras, gave as its priorities: data, financial aid, preparation, and incentives, with the following points of agreement: (1) Establish data system at the system level on persistence and completion. Make sure system-level data is collected and distributed. (2) Assist in tracking and reporting of data by institution, annually. (3) Student academic preparation and financial aid opportunities are a top priority. (4) Simplify the student financial-aid programs. (5) Streamline financial aid programs and academic preparation, K-16. (6) Encourage and allow institutional flexibility for tracking retention and persistence. (7) Increase participation, especially with minority populations. (8) Pursue system incentives for graduation, not just enrollment. (9) More investment in counseling, for both public education and higher education. (10) Pursue state law to make ACT mandatory for all high school students.

Commissioner Buhler thanked the participants for their good ideas. These discussions will set the agenda for the coming year in enhancing persistence.

Chair Pitcher thanked the group leaders for an outstanding job. The planning retreat was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

STATE BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING  
DIXIE STATE COLLEGE, ST GEORGE, UTAH  
March 21, 2008

Minutes

Regents Present

Jed H. Pitcher, Chair  
Bonnie Jean Beesley, Vice Chair  
Jerry C. Atkin  
Janet A. Cannon  
Rosanita Cespedes  
Amy Engh  
Katharine B. Garff  
Patti Harrington  
Greg W. Haws  
Meghan Holbrook  
David J. Jordan  
Nolan E. Karras  
Anthony W. Morgan  
Josh M. Reid  
Marlon O. Snow  
John H. Zenger

Regents Excused

James S. Jardine  
Sara V. Sinclair

Commissioner's Office

David L. Buhler, Interim Commissioner  
Joyce Cottrell, Executive Secretary  
Amanda Covington, Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs  
David S. Doty, Assistant Commissioner and Director of Policy Studies  
David Feitz, Executive Director, UHEAA  
Kimberly Henrie, Assistant Commissioner for Budget and Planning  
Melissa Miller Kinkart, Executive Director, Utah Campus Compact  
Phyllis C. Safman, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs  
Mark H. Spencer, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Facilities  
Lucille T. Stoddard, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs  
Lynne S. 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 Facilities Management  
Laura Snow, Special Assistant to the President and Secretary to the University  
Spencer Pearson, Student Officer  
Kim Wirthlin, Vice President for Government Relations

Utah State University

Stan L. Albrecht, President  
David Cowley, Associate Vice President for Business and Finance  
Steven H. Hanks, Associate Professor, Management and Human Resources  
Whitney J. Pugh, Executive Director, Budget and Planning

Weber State University

F. Ann Millner, President  
Michael Vaughan, Provost

Southern Utah University

Michael T. Benson, President  
Donna Eddleman, Vice President for Student Services  
Lee Montgomery, Associate Provost  
Dorian Page, Associate Vice President for Finance/Treasurer  
Greg Stauffer, Chief of Staff

Snow College

Scott L. Wyatt, President

Dixie State College

Lee G. Caldwell, President  
Donna Dillingham-Evans, Academic Vice President  
Donald Hinton, Dean, Education, Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences  
Mary Stubbs, Director, IT Support Services  
Vicki Reese Wilson, Vice Chair, DSC Board of Trustees

College of Eastern Utah

Ryan L. Thomas, President  
Brad King, Vice President of Student Services  
Mike King, Academic Vice President

Utah Valley State College

William A. Sederburg, President  
Briant Farnsworth, Dean, College of Education

Elizabeth J. Hitch, Academic Vice President  
Linda Makin, Director of Budgets  
Cameron Martin, Assistant to the President  
J. Karl Worthington, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Salt Lake Community College

Cynthia A. Bioteau, President  
Dennis Klaus, Vice President of Administrative Services  
Joe Peterson, Vice President for Instruction

Utah College of Applied Technology

Richard L. White, President  
Jared Haines, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services

Representatives of the Media

Brian Maffly, *Salt Lake Tribune*  
Alyson Van Deusen, *The Spectrum* and *Deseret Morning News*

Other Guests

Spencer Pratt, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
Vicki Varela, Special Consultant

Following a breakfast meeting with the Dixie State College Board of Trustees and the Dixie ATC Board of Directors, the Regents convened in Committee of the Whole. Chair Jed Pitcher welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He excused Regents Jardine and Sinclair.

Report of Planning Retreat

Chair Pitcher asked Commissioner Buhler to report on the retreat of the previous day. Commissioner Buhler said there was broad agreement among the Regents that the momentum needs to be changed to increase retention and participation in our colleges and universities. We must set a goal for college attainment that is realistic and reflects workforce and competitive needs. This goal must include completion of certificates, associate and baccalaureate degrees. Considerations include reliable data, state demographics, the changing economy, market demand, and the inclusion of the greater community in this discussion, particularly economic development leaders.

The students on the panel all stated that money was a serious factor impeding their completion, including the cost of education and availability of financial aid. All agreed that completing their educational goals would help them attain a better income. They also cited the need for adult guidance and counseling in high

school as well as college. In addition, the students requested additional class sections and/or access to classes in their intended major during the freshman and sophomore years.

Common themes were identified:

- Strengthen the K-16 Alliance
- Become more student-centric
- Increase preparation/participation
- Increase financial assistance
- Improve data

Other observations arising from the discussions included the need for programs to assist young married families to complete their education, such as subsidized daycare for mothers to attend classes in the middle of the day. Mentoring programs for students are needed, especially minorities. We need to increase the participation of students who are not making the transition between high school and college and provide job information and placement on all campuses.

Commissioner Buhler concluded that the next step would be for the Commissioner's staff to further research and evaluate the strategy options for budget and policy implications, relevance, social equity, and political feasibility. Those findings will be reported to the Regents for further action this fall.

**Regent Holbrook moved acceptance of the Commissioner's report. Following a second by Regent Atkin, the report was accepted unanimously.**

Review of 2008 Legislative General Session

Commissioner Buhler referred to Tab B. The \$340 million drop in revenue projections affected the higher education budget, as well as other state agencies. Initially, a proposal was made to reallocate \$20 million of non-lapsing balances; however, the final legislation cut \$1 million from those funds, but it was done in such a way that the money could be allocated back to each institution.

Budget. Associate Commissioner Spencer said the Legislature approved a 3 percent increase for compensation, which is a substantial amount of money when one considers the size of the System. Public education received 58 percent of the new money this year; higher education received 6 percent, which was the same percentage as last year. The appropriation for higher education was shown on the attachment to Tab B.

Legislation. Assistant Commissioner Amanda Covington reported on key legislation. She thanked the institutional legislative representatives, the Regents and Presidents for their hard work during the session. She expressed special appreciation to President Bioteau and to Mason Bishop at SLCC, Regents and others who were involved in talking with legislators about HB284. Although it did not pass, Representative Holdaway did a tremendous job as sponsor of the bill. A list of bills of interest to higher education was shown on the attachment to Tab B.

Lessons Learned. Commissioner Buhler thanked Assistant Commissioner Covington for her hard work at the Capitol every day throughout the session. Legislative priorities tend to be categorized as “must have” and “nice to have.” Unfortunately, higher education is perceived to be in the “nice to have” category, even though two-thirds of the new jobs in Utah’s economy require some postsecondary training or education. We need to continue to communicate the need for a certain threshold of non-lapsing balances. In addition, we need to rethink our approach to institutional priorities. We need to communicate to the Legislature our ongoing need for capital facilities and improvements and to develop a long-term capital facilities plan. We need to educate policy leaders about the importance of higher education. We need to remain united as a system in our goals and approach.

The Commissioner expressed his appreciation to legislative leadership; Representative Kory Holdaway and Senator Greg Bell, co-chairs of the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee; Regents, Presidents, legislative representatives, Commissioner’s staff and Kelly Stowell, Executive Director of the Utah Student Association. He also expressed appreciation for the good working relationship we have with legislative staff (Spencer Pratt and Jonathan Ball), Christine Kearn and Dirk Anderson in the Governor’s Office, and the staff in Legislative Research and General Counsel.

Chair Pitcher thanked Commissioner Buhler for his report. He called attention to the items in the Regents’ folders. The Regents recessed to their respective committees as 9:45 a.m. and reconvened in Committee of the Whole at 11:20 a.m.

#### Reports of Board Committees

Academic, CTE and Student Success (“Programs”) Committee (Regent Katharine Garff, Chair)

University of Utah – Master of Arts Degree in Languages and Literature, with Emphasis in World Language and with Secondary Licensure (Tab C). Chair Garff said this was a unique degree, combining a master’s degree with secondary licensure to teach in public schools. The focus is on less commonly taught “critical” languages (Arabic, Chinese, Hindi/Urdu, Japanese, Korean, Persian/Farsi, and Russian). Students in the program, particularly those seeking certification in a critical language, will be strongly encouraged to participate in an intensive language study-abroad program. During the 2007 Legislative General Session, ongoing funding was approved to create critical language programs for the next six years. Initially, licensed master teachers will broadcast from a central site and supervise classroom-based facilitators. Ultimately, the program will be entirely classroom-based. All institutions were supportive of this program. **Chair Garff moved approval of the University of Utah’s request. The motion was seconded by Regent Cespedes and adopted unanimously.**

Utah State University – Education Specialist Degree in Psychology (Tab D). Chair Garff reported the request would change the final degree granted in USU’s existing School Psychology program from a Master of Science (M.S.) Degree to an Education Specialist (Ed.S.) Degree. While master’s programs typically require 30 credits, the School Psychology program requires more than 60 credits. To recognize the additional credits, and to be in sync with other graduate programs across the country, USU proposes to offer its students both the master’s degree and the Education Specialist degree. Because of the higher number of credits required,

the Ed.S. degree is being offered in universities across the country as the terminal degree for these programs, although graduates can go on for their doctorate. It was noted that the University of Utah is planning to develop an Education Specialist degree as well as the master's degree for students in its future program. **Chair Garff moved approval of USU's Ed.S. Degree. Regent Zenger seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

Utah Valley State College – Master of Education Degree (Tab E). Chair Garff noted this would be the institution's first master's degree. The program is designed to serve those already in the teaching profession. All questions raised by other institutions were addressed adequately. This degree will become effective in Fall 2008, when Utah Valley State College becomes Utah Valley University. **Chair Garff moved approval of UVSC's Master of Education degree. Regent Snow seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.** Chair Garff recognized Dr. Elizabeth Hitch, UVSC's Academic Vice President, and Dr. Briant Farnsworth, Dean of the School of Education.

Utah Valley State College – Associate of Applied Science Degree in Technology (Tab F). Chair Garff said this program was designed to give students who have a specialized certificate the opportunity to continue their education and upgrade their skills. This proposal also demonstrates that UVSC is focusing on its entire mission, including CTE. The program was developed after consultation with trade and technical organizations in response to workplace needs. **Chair Garff moved approval of UVSC's proposed AAS Degree in Technology. Regent Snow seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.**

Consent Calendar, Programs Committee (Tab G). **On motion by Chair Garff and second by Regent Snow, the following item was approved on the Programs Committee's Consent Calendar:**  
**Weber State University – Game Development Certificate.**

Information Calendar, Programs Committee (Tab H). Chair Garff briefly reviewed the items on the Programs Committee's Information Calendar and offered to respond to questions. She commended President Sederburg for the \$20 million gift UVSC recently received from the Woodbury family.

Undergraduate Research Reports: Posters on the Hill and the Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research (Tab I). Chair Garff asked Assistant Commissioner Safman to briefly report on these two events. The reports showed that significant work is being done by undergraduate students throughout the state.

Finance, Facilities and Accountability Committee (Regent Jerry Atkin, Chair)

USHE – Proposed Fee Increases for 2008-2009 (Tab J). Chair Atkin referred to Replacement Tab J, which listed the proposed fee increases for the USHE institutions. The Regents have generally allowed institutions to increase student fees each year up to the rate at which first-tier tuition is increased. Institutions exceeding the first-tier increase must justify and provide evidence of student support for the increase. The proposed first-tier increase for 2008-2009 will be 3.5 percent. Chair Atkin said the committee had approved the proposed increases, albeit with hesitation, being mindful of the combined expense to students of first- and second-tier tuition and fees. **Chair Atkin moved approval of the proposed fees. Regent Morgan seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.**

Policy R345, Information Technology Resource Security (Tab K). Chair Atkin explained that this new policy applies to IT and how sensitive personal information, financial and research data are handled on the campuses. **Chair Atkin moved approval of Policy R345. Regent Morgan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

University of Utah – Approving Resolutions for the Issuance and Sale (Refunding/Refinancing) of Specified Revenue Bonds (Tab L). Chair Atkin reported this item involved a number of bonds. The University has an opportunity to refinance with the 3 percent net present value savings benchmark. This would provide a two-year window for the opportunity to refinance, should market conditions again become favorable. **Chair Atkin moved approval of the Approving Resolutions, seconded by Regent Snow. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.**

University of Utah – Authorization to Establish Differential Tuition for Graduate Programs in Public Health (Tab M). Chair Atkin said this would be the 14<sup>th</sup> of 15 graduate programs at the University with differential tuition. The proposed increase is necessary to maintain the quality of the graduate level programs. The students have requested the increase so that additional classes and equipment can be made available. **Chair Atkin moved approval of a differential tuition for the University of Utah's graduate programs in Public Health. The motion was seconded by Regent Morgan and adopted unanimously.**

Southern Utah University – Approving Resolution, Auxiliary System and Student Building Fee Revenue Bonds (Tab N). Chair Atkin explained that this resolution would enable SUU to replace existing student housing with new student housing. Parameters were listed on the Commissioner's cover memo to Tab N. **Chair Atkin moved approval of SUU's Approving Resolution, seconded by Regent Morgan. The motion was adopted unanimously.**

Dixie State College – Campus Master Plan (Tab O). Chair Atkin commended college officials for an excellent job of master planning. College officials are looking for additional property adjoining the college. The five-year plan would include one or more multi-level parking structures on existing property. **Chair Atkin moved approval of Dixie State College's Campus Master Plan. Regent Morgan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

Consent Calendar, Finance Committee (Tab P). **On motion by Chair Atkin and second by Regent Snow, the following items were approved on the Finance Committee's Consent Calendar:**

- A. USHE – Money Management Reports
- B. UofU and USU – Capital Facilities Delegation Reports
- C. Utah State University – Sale of Property in Vernal, Utah
- D. Dixie State College – Reciprocal Tuition Waiver Agreement with College of Southern Nevada
- E. Utah Valley State College – Utah County Academy of Science Lease
- F. Utah Valley State College – Purchase of Property Contiguous to Campus ("the Orchard")
- G. Utah Valley State College – Proposed Library Remodel

USHE – Spring 2008 Enrollment Report (Tab Q). Chair Atkin noted that although enrollment was down slightly system-wide, SUU, Dixie, CEU, UVSC and SLCC had all experienced enrollment increases. He recommended that all Regents read this informative report.

UHEAA – Action of Regents' Executive Committee (Tab R). Chair Atkin reported the Regents' Executive Committee had approved a resolution to authorize early expiration of December 21, 2007 amendments to student loan bonds. Executive Director David Feitz gave the committee a brief summary of the challenges facing UHEAA; Chair Atkin asked him to make the same report to the entire Board. Mr. Feitz reported the recent 'credit crunch' had disrupted UHEAA's efforts to obtain financing for student loans. Program officials are doing everything possible to maintain current funding levels. UHEAA remains stable, and administrators think they will be able to weather the storm with the reserves they have built up. They continue to seek every possible solution – financially and politically – to continue to make low-interest student loans available. Utah has a very strong loan program, one of the best names in the industry as far as credit markets are concerned.

Strategic Planning and Communications Committee (Regent Meghan Holbrook, Acting Chair)

Utah Scholars Update (Tab S). There is general agreement that preparation is the most critical of the Regents' three-pronged agenda (preparation, participation and completion). Chair Holbrook noted there are three parts to the Regents' Scholarship – completion of a rigorous curriculum in high school, a Utah Scholars recommended course with a 3.5 GPA, and a 75 percent discount for two years of tuition. An additional \$100 per year in state matching funds would be available for students in grades 9-12 who contribute to a UESP account. Assistant Commissioner Dave Doty thanked four groups of people for their work on this project: (1) public schools, the State Office of Education, and the nine school districts, (2) the business community, (3) USHE institutions and their partnerships with public schools and the business community, and (4) Regents and Commissioner's staff, especially Commissioner Buhler, Assistant Commissioner Covington, Melissa Miller Kinkart and Carrie Beckman, for advocating so strenuously for this program during the Legislative Session. Regent Harrington said public education was delighted at the growth of the Utah Scholars and Regents' Scholarship programs. However, some students are confused. A unit on financial aid opportunities in Utah (how to apply, how to prepare, etc.) will be inserted into the public schools' financial literacy course.

White Paper on Student Retention (Tab T). Associate Commissioner Stoddard pointed out this was a Student Services White Paper, prepared by Melissa Miller Kinkart and Michelle Lundell Taylor. Chair Holbrook said she appreciated the input from the State Board of Education and Superintendent Harrington's staff. She referred to the recommendations found on page 8 of the report:

1. Establish individualized benchmarks and data tracking for each institution.
2. Establish a campus-wide retention committee for each institution.
3. Increase Advisor-to-Student ratios.
4. Establish a State-wide Retention Task Force.

Campus Retention Plan Reports (Tab U). Based on issues raised in the White Paper and discussions during the planning retreat of the previous day, the committee requested retention plans to be presented throughout the next year. The following proposed schedule was listed in the Commissioner's memo:

May 30, 2008 – Weber State University and Utah State University  
July 11, 2008 – Southern Utah University and Dixie State College  
September 5, 2008 – College of Eastern Utah and Snow College  
October 24, 2008 – Utah College of Applied Technology and Utah Valley University  
December 5, 2008 – University of Utah and Salt Lake Community College

Chair Pitcher thanked the committee chairs for their diligence and time management.



General Consent Calendar

On motion by Vice Chair Beesley and second by Regent Garff, the following items were approved on the Regents' General Consent Calendar (Tab W):

- A. Minutes –
  - 1. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held January 18, 2008, at Salt Lake Community College (Attachment 1)
  - 2. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held January 29, 2008, via teleconference (Attachment 2)
- B. Grant Proposals – On file in the Commissioner's Office
- C. Grant Awards
  - 1. University of Utah – Utah Department of Human Services; "Title IV-E"; \$4,379,405. Norma J. Harris, Principal Investigator.
  - 2. University of Utah – National Institutes of Health/National Institute for Child Health and Human Development; "EAGR Trial"; \$1,603,794. Robert M. Silver, Principal Investigator.
  - 3. Utah State University – NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory; "Wide-Field Infra-Red Survey Explorer (WISE)"; \$1,022,298. John Elwell, Principal Investigator; Scott Schick, Co-Principal Investigator.

Tuition Increases for 2008-2009 (First- and Second-Tier)

Commissioner Buhler called attention to Replacement Tab V, in the Regents' folders. The Legislature appropriated 3½ percent for compensation and 9.9 percent for insurance increases. Last year the Legislature froze the ratio at 75/25, meaning the institutions are required to pay 25 percent of the cost of compensation through first-tier tuition increases. The total tuition increase for 2008-2009 averaged 5-6 percent. Regent Jordan said he appreciated the fact that this was a lean year for legislative appropriations, as well as the fact that institutions have funding needs. He was troubled, however, by the fact that tuition at the community colleges is consistently increasing. President Bioteau explained she had not increased second-tier tuition during her first year, and had requested a 2 percent increase last year. This year she was forced to request another 2 percent increase because institutional priorities were not funded by the Legislature. Regent Jordan recommended a different funding model for the community colleges and for the community college mission at the other schools. Consistent tuition increases aggravate the retention problem.

Commissioner Buhler said he understood and shared Regent Jordan's concern, as do the Presidents. He noted CTE courses delivered by UCAT are funded more generously by the Legislature than at the

community colleges. This needs to be addressed. Also, UCAT does not contribute to the compensation of its faculty and staff. We need to make sure the Legislature understands these funding inequities.

President Caldwell pointed out some of the technical programs are very expensive to operate, with lower student-to-teacher ratios and more expensive labs. Sometimes the cost of operation can be two to three times as great as an academic program.

**Regent Atkin moved approval of the proposed first- and second-tier tuition increases. Regents Garff and Snow seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.**

#### Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Buhler referred to his written report in the folders. He briefly reviewed the outstanding achievements at our institutions, as detailed in the report. He called attention to the letter from United Way in the Regents' folders, expressing appreciation for the passage of SB 180, the Regents' Scholarship Program. He also pointed out the article from *Utah Business* magazine naming President Sederburg one of its CEOs of the Year and congratulated him on this recognition. He also noted the updated Regents' meeting schedule and pointed out the April 18 meeting would be held at the Regents' offices rather than at UVSC, as originally scheduled.

#### Report of the Chair

Chair Pitcher referred to his written summary of student achievements. He thanked President Caldwell and his staff for the accommodations and gracious hospitality.

President Bioteau reported Salt Lake Community College's men's basketball team was currently in the "Final Four." The team was scheduled to play that evening in Hutchison, Kansas.

**Regent Engh moved that the Regents recess to a closed session to discuss personnel and legal issues. Regent Reid seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

The Regents moved into closed session at 12:15 p.m. and adjourned from there at 1:25 p.m.

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Joyce Cottrell CPS, Executive Secretary

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Date Approved