



September, 25, 2006

Dear Legislator:

The Utah Higher Education Staff Association (UHESA) and all its members would like to take this opportunity to thank our legislators for the continued support of higher education. Funding a salary increase and continued health care costs during the past session was of great value to our constituency and we are very appreciative of the funds allocated.

In terms of funding priorities for the coming legislative session, UHESA would like to make the following requests:

1. 4% salary increase
2. Continued funding of health care costs
3. Monies to fund higher education in regards to:
 - a. Increasing enrollments statewide -Recruitment
 - b. New staff positions at various institutions

UHESA has also been made aware of a state statute that designates the legislature may only spend \$30 million of any budget surplus. UHESA would like to see some of these monies tied to salary increases for higher education personnel.

The economy for the state of Utah has been strong for several years and the forecast looks favorable for continued growth. UHESA realizes that there are many situations that need to be addressed during the coming legislative session. Although UHESA is grateful for the 3.5% salary increase and 6.5% increase to cover health care costs we feel that a bit more is warranted. Higher education has seen lean times in the past. Now, with a strong economy and general public support for education as a whole, we ask for legislative support reflected in the dollars that are appropriated in the 2007 session.

Again, thank you very much for the support you have shown higher education. UHESA serves a vital role in advancing the mission of higher education by being on the front line in providing our students and prospective students a positive experience.

Higher education is a driving force in economic development in the state of Utah and as the cost of living continues to rise increased support is needed to retain experienced staff to help UHESA grow, and to help UHESA continue to grow a prosperous work force.

Sincerely,

Michael Jorgensen
2006-2007 UHESA President
Snow College

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