

UHESA Meeting #53
November 20, 2009
10:00 am
Snow College

Roll call:

College of Eastern Utah:	Bob Potts, Jeremiah Moore, Justin Orth
Dixie State:	No one in attendance
Salt Lake Community College:	Butch Steffen, Ron Giles
Snow College:	Jim Kittelsrud, Lindsey Field, Greg Dart
Southern Utah University:	Travis Rosenberg, Bruce Barclay
University of Utah:	No one in attendance
Utah State University:	Craig Miller, Doug Garrett, Karen Hoffman, Bill Jensen
Utah Valley University:	Clint Moser
Weber State University:	Lynell Gardner

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of minutes: Changes in personnel listed in the minutes are incorrect: should be Greg Dart at Snow College and Vicki Noyes at CEU. Bruce Barclay motioned to approve September's minutes with the changes and it was seconded by Bill Jensen

Financial report: We began the year with \$5,452.56; we are now at \$6125.71 after dues have been paid. All dues have been paid except the U of U. We might want to add into the UHESA bylaws that the balance we should keep is at \$5000.00. We should also specify what happens if UHESA were to disband and where the money would go. Hopefully it would go back to the individual institutions. The dues that are paid go towards our meetings, lunches, board members travel expenses, legislative expenses, etc.

PR/Website report: As items have been coming in Travis has posted them on the website. The article on Utah retirement has been posted on the website. Bruce commented that when searching for the website he typed in UHESA and it brought up all the Utah Higher Ed Institutions and their websites were all wrong. That is because the old websites from USU and Weber need to be taken off. Travis is happy to post any articles that you find.

Groups.to/uhesa will take you directly to the UHESA facebook. The facebook is just another tool to help us collaborate but not take away from our website. Bob Potts has put articles on the UHESA website that affect CEU with the merger. It is easy to put articles in this by linking it to our facebook. It was suggested that each staff association develop their own group facebook so that anyone in their individual staff associations could make comments and from this there could be a link to the UHESA facebook. It was also suggested that we become friends with Legislator's facebook pages and then list legislative items on them.

Approaches to marketing UHESA are within the individual colleges and through the media. In the past we haven't extended ourselves beyond the individual colleges internally, but

haven't gone externally. By externally going out with the media it would raise our profile as well as our accountability. We have to consider the protocol of UHESA. We don't want to cross any lines with our individual presidents in what we propose. Some items should be on a local level and not put out for everyone to know about. Possibly we could put legislative items out there. There is a benefit to having what we do out there more and it is vetted enough that it could be written for public consumption. This shows that there is a need for people to get involved.

Anything that would be put in the media would go through the UHESA committee to be written and approved before it would ever go out. We would stay away from controversy and political statements. Our legislative co-chairs could draft something together to bring before the committee. This will be available by our next meeting on Dec. 16th. A motion to draft a letter was made by Greg and seconded by Bob Potts.

UHESA Bylaws: The most current Bylaws are on August 9, 2007 minutes. We need to make these current on our website. Travis motioned that we make a change with the bylaws on voting procedures from 60% majority to a simple majority. It was seconded by Craig Miller. It is also suggested that we add two additional votes to our voting board (one for the Legislative chair and the other for the PR chair). It was also suggested that if you serve as a delegate from your institution and also serve as an Executive Board member, you can have two votes.

Utah Retirement System: There are about \$7,000-\$10,000 Higher Ed employees that are in the State retirement system. It has been proposed that the amount that is contributed from the State would be less than what it is now. They are also looking at doing away with retiring from the State at 30 years of service regardless of your age. They are looking at changing the laws so State employees can't double dip for their retirement. It will be an interesting thing to watch when the Legislative session gets underway. We will want to stay up to speed and keep informed with what is going on with it and decide as a group if we want to put something about retirement as one of our talking points.

Electronic Voting: According to Utah code you must have a bylaw stating that you can have permission to hold electronic voting if deemed necessary. It was stated that we are not a public entity and therefore aren't forced to adhere to this. It is still felt that this would be a good thing to add to our bylaws so there aren't any future problems that could come up.

Voting procedures: Any information from employees must come from each institutions delegate to approve and forward on. Individuals cannot just submit things on their own to UHESA. This goes for the Legislative committee to send their ideas and comments to Butch or Greg.

Legislative Section:

1. **UHESA letter:** make sure you talk to your legislatures if you haven't already. Board of Regents are asking to backfill the \$60 million stimulus money with either one-time or on-going appropriations and to also resist any further cuts to higher education and K-12 public education beyond what has already been done. Butch is

suggesting that we send out a follow-up letter to Legislators with stories of people that have been affected by the extreme budget cuts that Higher Education has taken. One of the arguments we could pose is there are less college graduates in Utah now than 10 or 20 years ago. Humanistic stories are better than throwing out statistics because that is all the Legislators hear about. Compelling stories could include the argument that students can't get the quality of education they should be getting and have paid for. It is also taking longer for a student to graduate because they can't get into classes they need because of the shortage of teachers. E-mail Butch back with any ideas or stories that he could use. He will get his committee working on this as well.

2. **UHESA Day:** Feb. 4th at the State Capital from 9:00-1:00. We may not be able to use the committee room in the Capital and may be in the multi purpose room in the Capital instead. Butch will know in December which room we will be in. On our UHESA day we meet 1st with a strategy session. Legislators are out during 12:00-1:00, so we try and visit with them during that time. It was suggested that we try and wear clothing that is the same, such as a UHESA T-shirt. Greg will look into getting a deal from a vendor for these and if cheap enough we will order around 100 shirts with the UHESA logo on them and hand them out to anyone that comes to UHESA Day.
3. **UHESA Card:** Butch will have a rough draft out next month to look at and review. We will discuss this at our next meeting.

Clint brought to our attention what other organizations in the state are saying about the State's money. The Board of Regents has sent out their position of where they think cuts should be taken. The Southerland group is a very influential group at the Legislature and one of their biggest bullet points is to cut the amount of money the State spends on State employees. The Chamber of Commerce also advertised their bullet points to the Legislature, but in their bullets they asked that Higher Ed be held harmless this time because of the amount of cuts we were hit with last year. We need to be aware of what others are saying so we can defend our positions.

Plaques presentation: Clint and Travis were honored for their service to UHESA during the 2008-2009 years. We appreciate all of their hard work and service.

Gifts: A drawing was held and gifts given out.

Craig Miller motioned that we adjourn at 2:20 pm

Next meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 16th at 1:30 pm. via conference call.