



Dear Legislator:

The Utah Higher Education Staff Association (UHESA) membership of approximately 22,000 state higher education employees would like to take this opportunity to again thank the Utah State Legislators for their support in funding the 2.5% salary increase and the 11.7% funding to cover continuing health insurance costs during the 2005 legislative session. We appreciate your vote of confidence in our continued role of service to the students in Utah's higher education system.

UHESA is requesting a 4% salary increase for the upcoming 2006 legislative session. The State Board of Regents is supportive of this request. At the present time, there is no policy or procedure in place for merit or step increases for college/university staff. UHESA requests the Legislature adopt a policy of an automatic cost of living increase for college/university staff (COLA).

Health insurance costs continue to be a fiscal issue with all colleges and universities. UHESA appreciates last year's 11.7% increase for health insurance funding and requests continued funding of health insurance costs while allowing each college/university the right to select the health plan best suited for its institution.

The economy for the state of Utah has been very healthy this past year, and UHESA is aware of the budget surplus. We ask that you keep us in mind when prioritizing funding.

UHESA members continue to work diligently to serve the students that attend our colleges and universities. With your continued financial support we will be able to assist these students in obtaining their educational pursuits.

Please note that "UHESA Day at the Capitol" is planned for February 2, 2006. We look forward to visiting with you personally at that time. We wish you well during the 2006 legislative session, and we sincerely appreciate your ongoing support of UHESA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurie Sullivan  
2005-2006 UHESA President  
Dixie State College

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