

UHESA Meeting #35
Conference Call
January 9, 2008
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

WELCOME and BUSINESS ITEMS.....Clint Moser

Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm.

College of Eastern Utah:	No one in attendance
Dixie State College:	No one in attendance
Salt Lake Community College:	Butch Steffen
Snow College:	Mike Jorgensen, Jim Kittelsrud & Jeff Serrine
Southern Utah University:	Casey Bowns and Bruce Tebbs
University of Utah:	Robin Mullins
Utah State University:	Jill Ballard & Betsy Newman
Utah Valley State College:	Clint Moser
Weber State University:	Jennifer Allison

BUSINESS ITEMS.....Clint Moser

Meeting called to order at 1:05 PM

No Minutes to approve. Jill hasn't received them from the November meeting at SUU.

Jennifer Allison was introduced to the group. She will be replacing Jose Gomez who has left Weber State University. Jennifer is the Associate Registrar at Weber State.

UHESA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.....Butch Steffen

UHESA Day is set for February 7th. We are set up on the same rooms as last year in the West Capitol Building W130 & W140 from 9 am until 2 pm. We can't get a room in the Capitol. We will have to adjust because it will be more difficult to get the Legislators to come to where we are from the Capitol as opposed to where they were meeting before. Butch suggested that maybe we go back to the grass roots approach and get in touch with your Legislators and let them be aware that we will be up there and that we would like them to come and see us for about 10 minutes if they have time. They will be in session from 10-2 and they have lunch from 12-1. There may be time to gather with them after the session is over in the 12- 1 time frame. Butch will touch base with Nancy at the Capitol to see if anything changes with the room. Butch secured the room with a credit card. He also went up and visited with Spencer Pratt, Legislative Fiscal Analysis, and found out that there was about a 290 million general fund budget surplus and well over 100 + million in the other fund. There is a 400 – 500 million total budget surplus, so there is still money to go around. Spencer is available to anyone, so if you have any question regarding your individual institutions you can contact him anytime.

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee is having their 1st meeting before the session on January 16th. They will continue to meet in the West Capitol Building W020 downstairs. They will set their agenda for the session.

It was decided that we need put the date and time, the location of the rooms, and the website on the UHESA card. Butch was a little hesitant to put the website on the card because it has not been updated. Barbara had sent out an email about the card and was wondering if we were going ahead with the new logo. Butch asked Jennifer Allison to get with Nancy to check on it. We need to maintain our numbers in getting up there and spending some time with our legislators. This is an election year they will be having the caucus precinct meetings. If anyone is interested in becoming a delegate in March go to the Democratic or Republican web page and get the information on precincts and then you can vote people you want to represent you.

Butch sent out a copy of the letter that was sent out to the legislators to Amanda Covington, in the public relations office. Dave Buhler is the current acting interim Commissioner. Richard Kendall left the commission office at the end of the year and has been put on contract to help with a couple of issues up at the capitol as far as Higher Education is concerned. One of the issues is the SLCC/Salt Lake -Tooele ATC merger, which the Board of Regents gave their approval for the merger. It now has to be Okayed by the legislator.

Betsy brought up the way the cost of living monies were distributed last year and that USU's Provost indicated that he was disappointed that the Legislators didn't give the Universities the right to apply that money at their discrimination. She wondered if anyone had heard that the Legislators were going to change the way they apply the cost of living adjustment. 3.5% was given to everyone for a cost of living and then there was 1.5% given for retention at their discretion. Betsy's concern is that their Provost will lobby the legislators to allow the institutions to use that 3.5% adjustment at their discretion. The Provost didn't appreciate that they couldn't control the money and that if someone that wasn't performing well still got the 3.5% cost of living raise and he wants to be able to withhold that from the people that are not performing. She wanted to bring that to everyone's attention so that we can watch the language that comes out. Clint said that in the last couple of years they have shifted to give all employees a cost of living raise. He would be surprised to see them shift it back. He thinks that it is something we should keep our eyes on. In the Governors budget recommendation he has prescribed for exactly a cost of living allowance and not for discretionary. Higher Education is the only area that got the 1.5% discretionary adjustment. All state employees received the Cost of living raise. The Governor's budget suggested that a 3.5% cola and a 1.5% retention for a total of 5%. We are asking for a 4.5% and 1.5% which would be a total of 6%. Butch will check and see if there is any leeway with how the cost of living adjustment is made. He will get with Spencer and then he will get back with us on it.

Jeff brought up that the list of legislators that the letter was sent to was very small. Butch said that the list was from a group of legislators that actually visited with us on UHESA Day. Jeff wondered if we could get it out to everyone. It was brought up that we didn't want to send it to everyone because sending a blind email is not effective at all and sometimes harmful to the cause by blanketing everyone. The idea was that those that had come and met with us were aware of UHESA and knew who we were and would be more open to receiving emails about UHESA. We decided that we should contact our individual legislators and let them know what is going on with UHESA and ask them if we can add them to our email list. Email Butch with anyone that you would like to add to the email list.

Butch brought up that he thought that it would be a good idea to give a "Friend of UHESA" plaque or certificate of appreciation to a legislator that has helped UHESA. It would be given to one person a year. It was decided that it would be hard to decide who would get the award and that some of the others might fill that they had helped UHESA and then they didn't get anything. Mike brought up that we already give them a thank you and a small gift when they come and visit us at our meetings and maybe we should keep it that way. That way we don't run into a problem with all the legislators. It was decided that we would table this and bring it up at a later discussion at one of our on-site meetings.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS.....Committee

Butch brought up the website and said that we are not up to date on the members. The ones that are listed are all from last year. It would be a good idea to have the website on the cards. Jill will get with Nancy to see if we can get it updated before the cards are made up.

Each institutions has a bunch of committees that they serve on and Butch wanted to know how the committees are put together and how it is decided who serves on what committees and if there is a revolving door on the committees or do the committees stay with the same members all the time. He also wanted to know if each institutions websites listed the committees you were on. Each institution is different. Butch would like us to look into it. We will bring it up at a later date. Jeff also wanted to know if any of us have voting rights with Board of Trustees. Each institution is invited to the Board of Trustees meetings but none have voting rights.

Clint wondered if we would be interested in putting together a press release about you UHESA and that UHESA would be on the hill that day. Everyone was in agreement.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be UHESA Day

February 7th, 9 am – 2 pm