

MINUTES

UHESA Special Legislative Meeting
Southern Utah University
November 8, 2001

IN ATTENDANCE:

DSC - Dennis Cox, Ed Rogers
CEU - Glenna Gilson
SLCC - Maryetta Chase, Debbie Sharp, Wendy Johanson
SUU - Wes Brinkerhoff, Marlo Jensen
U of U - Jim Cook, Wendy Bailey, Bill Johnson
UVSC - Merrill Oyler
WSU - Marsha Richter, Ben Read, Jan Shaw

WELCOME & OVERVIEW - JIM COOK

- Jim Cook, President of UHESA, welcomed the members and thanked Marlo Jensen for making the arrangements/accommodations for the special session.
- Purpose of meetings:
 - Educate staff presidents on what their role is in regards to educating and encouraging their respective staff members to build relationships with their legislators.
 - Discuss 3 system-wide issues that UHESA can support during the legislative sessions, e.g., Information Technology direction; School of Medicine funding; and separate funding for salary and benefits.
 - Develop a tracking mechanism to allow followup from year to year on issues, legislators, contacts, and to indicate who is doing what

REPORT ON BOARD OF REGENTS MEETINGS

September 13, 2001- Regents' Meeting Highlights - By Marsha Richter and Ben Read

- Weber State University's institutional report. Highlights included :
 - Video featuring WSU's student with focus on changing minds and changing lives.
 - WSU capital campaign has raised \$60 million thus far.
 - 50% of WSU's students are first-generation college students.
 - Survey results indicate that 90% of the students said they had the access to the faculty they wanted.
 - Of the students graduating from WSU each year, 35% receive an associate degree, 64% receive a bachelor's degree and 1% receive a master's degree.
- All institutions reported that their top priority was to restore the funding withheld by the Governor.
- Institutions' top capital projects:
 - University of Utah: 1st priority - Health Sciences Education Building (\$37 million); 2nd - remodeling of the Marriott Library (\$38 million from state and \$12 million from private money.

- Three break-out groups were held in which the institutional presidents made their budget presentations for 2002-2003.

October 19, 2001- Regents' Meeting Highlights - Reported by Marlo Jensen

- Southern Utah University's institutional report:
 - The 98% placement rate of its graduates. Several students and professors gave brief presentations.
- Utah College of Applied Technology Progress Report
 - President Fitch has visited most of the regional ATCs.
 - Regional presidents have set goals and established committees.
 - 10 regional colleges will not be accredited independently.
 - Community interest is high for UCAT
- 2002-2003 Budget Request
 - Requests have been pared down in keeping with the economic realities of the state's uncertain economic situation.
 - 2.5 percent hold-back is now an actual budget cut of \$14 million for higher education.
 - Governor is asking other state agencies to cut even further and is holding public education, higher education, and public safety harmless from additional funding cuts. He plans to take money from the rainy day fund to make up part of the difference.
 - It is not possible to finish a funding formula for all aspects of higher education this year due to the economic realities. The most defining issue is the budget-funding formula. This line-item budget has not changed in 15 years. The funding is for new students and current students are not fully funded. Additional costs for current students have to be covered by the institution's existing funds.
 - The most essential element of the formula is funding for existing students as well as new students. This compensation is 80% of the USHE budget.
 - All institutions are now in agreement that there should be a separation of salary and benefits in the funding process.
 - Compensation is not included in the budget request. It is not helpful to the overall budget request to estimate a compensation increase.
 - There is a salary equity budget of \$11-12 million. This is to bring salaries up to 90 per cent of the market.
 - Health and dental insurance premiums are included in the budget request.
 - Legislature authorized the Board of Regents to issue an \$8 million bond to purchase space for UHEAA (financial aid) and Commissioner's staff.
- Programs approved:
 - University of Utah - Ph.D. Degree in Applied Linguistic; and Genetic Science Learning Center
 - Utah Valley State College - Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Degrees in Philosophy; and Division of the Department of Physical Science into three new departments: Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physics.

MINUTES

UHESA Special Legislative Meeting
Southern Utah University
November 9, 2001

IN ATTENDANCE:

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SLCC - Maryetta Chase, Debbie Sharp, Wendy Johanson
SUU - Wes Brinkerhoff, Marlo Jensen, Bill Moody
U of U - Jim Cook, Wendy Bailey, Bill Johnson
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FOLLOWUP DISCUSSION ON ISSUES FROM NOVEMBER 8 MEETING

- **Feedback/changes on *Guide for Utah Higher Education Staff Association Presidents***
 - Page 1, paragraph 1, line 5: Change the word Universities to institutions
 - Page 1, paragraph 2, line 2: Take out the word in
 - Page 7, paragraph 2, line 4: put in the word be
- **UHESA legislative subcommittee assignment**
 - *Draft of document for UHESA similar to Jim Cook's document for staff association presidents.*
 - *Each staff association from the institutions needs to assign a liaison for the UHESA legislative subcommittee immediately so that the committee could begin functioning.*
- **Suggestions and questions about legislative training**
 - SLCC Human Resource is encouraging staff improvement by providing e-learning for staff.
 - Might be possible to provide an e-learning course for legislative training for staff. This way they would not have to leave their office
 - Question: When communicating with legislators, can we e-mail from our institutions?
Answer: Encourage staff to send e-mail from home on personal time. If the staff member does not have access to e-mail at home, make sure to get permission from their institution before sending it from their work station.

SYSTEM-WIDE ISSUES ON WHICH TO FOCUS "GRASS ROOT" EFFORTS

By Jim Cook

- It is important to keep issues short and concise

- Question: Can we see the results of the salary equity survey?
 Answer: I imagine you could. The old one is three years old and the regents really didn't see it.
- Question: Can it be made available? *Could you encourage Norm Tarbox to make it available?*
 Answer: I will talk to him.
- Question: Regarding the restoration of monies from the 2.5% cut. Should we make an effort to show what the impact is from this cut?
 Answer: You could do this but I am not sure that it will make a difference
- Question: Will we see any increase in salary?
 Answer: There is a chance of 1-2% and something for health insurance. But more realistically we should try to take care of health care funding and not expect much for compensation increase. There is a feeling that we should be grateful there are no layoffs. We should be lucky we have a job. I haven't heard from any legislators or governor about salaries. They have been very "tight lipped".
- Question: Where does engineering initiative stand?
 Answer: It is still on the board and still being pushed to put dollars into it. The Governor may still be willing. Before September 11, he was willing but now I am not sure. I think they will do something if they can find the money.
- Summation: We have talked only about the operating budget and not the building budget. Please encourage staff to focus on health insurance and then if anything can be done for compensation would be great. Also all the institutions now favor separation of funding for compensation and benefits. A division is the best approach.
 At this point, building relationships with legislators and don't focus as much on the issues. This year, hold on what we have and build for the future. A long-term approach is wise. To have Higher Education heard will be a long-term goal, and we have a long way to go Sometime in late March will be the party caucuses. That is the key time to begin planning where you can have the best influence. The key position to seek or support is the county delegate. They are invaluable.
- Questions: Are there any legislators that are our advocates?
 Answer: Sheryl Allen (Davis) and Afton Bradshaw (SL) are friends of higher education. Your legislative institutional representatives can give you some insight,.
- Discussion on what benefits could an institution possibly no longer provide.
 - Not all institutions are the same.
 - Many times there are moral and legal obligations for schools to provide

through the School of Medicine. (65% of physicians receive training at School of Medicine)

- In the next 5 years, there will be a shortage of technicians, nurses, and physicians.
- School of Medicine attracts doctors, school/student research, and keeps health care on the cutting edge.
- Imagine your health without it. (Give some examples)

- Kim Wirthlin concluded her presentation by stating:
 - The University of Utah is asking that School of Medicine funding be included in the Regents' budget this year. Alternative sources (other than Higher Education budgets) are being considered such as an increase in tobacco excise tax.
 - An over-all tax would not be political whereas target tax could become political.
 - In order to raise the \$15 million needed, the current tax of 20 cents would need to be raised to 72 cents.
 - Washington State just raised their tax.
 - The last Utah tax increase was not earmarked and subsequently went to roads. Medical and education/health care was not considered.
 - Concerns had been expressed about the School of Medicine's admission policies, e.g., that it seems to be easier to get into the school if a student is a non-resident rather than a resident. A study on admissions is being conducted and should be completed by the middle of December
 - There is a tape that is available for training sessions regarding the School of Medicine if the association presidents are interested. Contact Kim Wirthlin 801 - 585-3159 or kim.wirthlin@hsc.utah.edu

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

- Technology infrastructure cannot grow fast enough. Needs cannot be met for current demand.
- The newer the technology and bigger the problem.
- Do not have band width available to support the demand
- This issue will affect dollars and people. All jobs will be affected.
- Quality of education is degraded by lack of technology.
- Additional issues are:
 - Financial impact - No money
 - Personnel impact - Inadequate support - understaffed
- Arthur Anderson study included 7 proposals, 3 of which are seriously being considered
- Staff Associations were encouraged to attempt to get a copy of the Arthur Anderson report.

NEXT MEETING

- Next meeting will be held sometime the end of March and hosted by Dixie. An e-mail will be sent out with the meeting date in the future.
- Jim thanked SUU for hosting the meeting.