

UHESA Meeting #45a

January 14, 2009

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

CALL MEETING TO ORDER and WELCOME.....Clint Moser

Meeting called to order at 1:04 pm.

<i>College of Eastern Utah:</i>	No one in attendance
<i>Dixie State College:</i>	No one in attendance
<i>Salt Lake Community College:</i>	Butch Steffen
<i>Snow College:</i>	Jim Kittelsrud
<i>Southern Utah University:</i>	Bruce Tebbs and Travis Rosenberg
<i>University of Utah:</i>	No one in attendance
<i>Utah State University:</i>	Lisa Leishman, Karen Hoffman, and Marion Olson
<i>Utah Valley University:</i>	Clint Moser and Mark Wiesenberg
<i>Weber State University:</i>	Lisa Pedersen and Heather Couturier

BUSINESS ITEMS.....Clint Moser

Minutes

The December meeting minutes were discussed. The time when the meeting commenced needs to be changed from 2:04 am to 2:04 pm. Also, the room for the capitol was changed from C415 to C250. No further corrections were made; Karen made a motion to approve the minutes. Mark Seconded. Vote was unanimous.

UHESA Day at the Capitol – meeting information and strategy

Butch has an update for the Day at the Capitol this year on Thursday, February 5, 2009. We will be meeting in the Capital Building, Room C250 at 10:00 am. The room holds more than 60 individuals and is more conveniently located. We will strategize from 10:00 – 10:30 am then meet with legislatures. Parking at the capitol is the same as last year. Currently there is projected to be at least one representative from each school planning on attending the UHESA Day – it was strongly encouraged that staff take a vacation/personal day to attend and provide a voice for Higher Education. Travis will be sending out a map of the capitol building and parking information later on this month.

The discussion was then turned to strategy for the day. Clint outlined our main objectives were

- 1) Maintenance of current benefits
- 2) Minimizing cuts from appropriated budgets
- 3) By cutting now, the impact to support faculty & students will be diminished not just now but in the future.

Currently, there are two different proposals – one by Governor Huntsman, which calls for a 7.5% budget reduction in the current fiscal year, followed by a 7-15% cut for next fiscal year. The legislature is considering a 15% budget reduction for next fiscal year and hopes to avoid any more current fiscal year cuts through backfill and use of the rainy day funds.

It is time for an immediate call for action to contact legislature. To take a 7.5% immediate cut, no faculty can be harmed as classes are currently in session. It would directly affect staff, which could amount to a 30-50% cut in staff. No institution could function with that severe a cut. UHESA has to be united in message – research is being done as to what the Regents say and start drafting talking points.

The Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee will meet January 21, 2009 and finalize their recommendations. It is proposed that UHESA delegates spend our time preparing to tackle the 09-10 budget issues. Spencer Pratt, financial advisor, is projecting that every 1% in budget reduction would affect 50 staff & 50 faculty positions state-wide.

Current Campus Happenings

Each institution was given time to go over what is happening on their campus relating to staff. The following is a report from the various institutions:

- **SUU** – the University President is holding a campus forum from 3:30 – 4:30 pm today to discuss the budget reductions and our plan of action in a worst-case scenario. Afterwards, their Staff Association Legislative Rep has coordinated a forum with local legislatures (Senator Stowell and Representative Vickers) to take place immediately after the President’s forum. Representative Vickers is serving on the Higher Ed appropriations subcommittee, so feedback to him will be important. SUU is also currently offering a special early retirement incentive window through the end of January with added benefits & incentives for those who qualify.
- **Weber** – now has a policy available online regarding layoffs and their plan of action. Their campus is holding a forum as well on the 15th and will have more information after that point.
- **UVU** – doing a reduction-in-force policy. It will include information regarding severance and rehire of these positions.
- **Snow** – notifications have already been sent to some faculty & staff saying that positions will end of 06/30/09. They are currently being governed by a plan to minimize repercussions. The difficult they are having is in which positions are eligible for elimination and that will affect the direction the cuts will take.
- **USU** – Has a campus forum tomorrow.

UHESA Card for Day at the Capitol

Discussion followed regarding the priorities for UHESA as indicated by the yearly card that is distributed to legislatures. Jim will send last year’s card to Travis, who will draft the new one based on some items covered in the letter and some new statements that have come from the Commissioner’s office. Once the card is finalized, it will be printed in mass by Weber State University.

It was proposed that priorities #1 & #3 should be taken from the letter and #2 should focus on Commissioner Sederburg’s statement that \$1 invested in higher education yields a \$7 economic benefit. Travis will compile a draft to that effect and email it to the body Thursday. To follow up and finalize the card, a second meeting will happen Friday, January 16, 2009.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be Friday, January 16, 2009, via conference call.

UHESA Meeting #45b

January 16, 2009
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

CALL MEETING TO ORDER and WELCOME.....Clint Moser

Meeting called to order at 1:06 pm.

College of Eastern Utah: Vicki Noyes
Dixie State College: No one in attendance
Salt Lake Community College: Butch Steffen

<i>Snow College:</i>	Jeff Sirrime
<i>Southern Utah University:</i>	Bruce Tebbs and Travis Rosenberg
<i>University of Utah:</i>	No one in attendance
<i>Utah State University:</i>	Lisa Leishman, Doug Garrett, and Marion Olson
<i>Utah Valley University:</i>	Clint Moser
<i>Weber State University:</i>	Lisa Pedersen and Heather Couturier

BUSINESS ITEMS.....Clint Moser

Current Campus Happenings

Each institution was given time to go over the information given out in their respective campus forums in the last two days. The following is a report from the various institutions:

- **USU** – the institution is currently waiting to see the actual impact and options. No current actions are being taken. Part of the decision could relate the President Obama’s proposed stimulus package and enrollment growth. However, the administration did express optimism.
- **Weber** – discussion was between proposals of budget reductions given by both the Governor and the Legislature. They were given a worst-case scenario with the budget cuts. It was advised that the staff personally contact the legislature – we are a positive force for the state.
- **SLCC** – their president sent out a subscriber – they are focusing efforts on an early retirement incentive, plans to consolidate the budget and several programs have been alerted for elimination. So far, at least two executive positions and 2 administrative positions will be eliminated as well as some others.
- **UVU** – everything is unclear at this point in time. 106 FTE positions were identified that will be eliminated in the worst case scenario. They hope to be saved from this year’s 7.5% proposed reduction.
- **Snow** – very grim outlook at Snow regarding the potential impact. They are waiting to see how quickly the decision regarding the 7.5% current fiscal year cut will be made.
- **SUU** – Similar information as was given by Weber State. It was good to meet with local representatives and reinforce the need to voice options and opinions to the legislatures.

UHESA Card for Day at the Capitol

Discussion continued regarding the card priorities. After much commentary and discussion, the following is the final version:

Utah Higher Education Staff Association

2009 Legislative Priorities

UHESA would like to thank legislators for the support you have shown Higher Education in the past. We look forward to working with you during this 2009 legislative session with the following considerations:

1. UHESA supports and appreciates the continuation of state funding for health insurance benefits.
2. UHESA recognizes Commissioner Sederburg’s statement that every \$1 invested in Higher Ed yields a \$7 economic benefit.
3. UHESA supports the use of the state’s “rainy day” funds to help compensate for the economic downturn and mitigate further cuts on our campuses.

UHESA continues to be at the forefront in advancing the mission of Higher Education to help create a viable work force that can only enhance the economic outlook for the state of Utah in a positive manner. **UHESA thanks you for your support!**

We invite you and your constituency to visit us in the Capitol Building, Room C250