

UHESA Meeting #74
January 18, 2012
Telephone Conference Call Meeting
2:00-3:00 pm

Welcome and Roll Call

Sheri Butler called this meeting to order and the following individuals attended.

<i>Dixie State College:</i>	<i>Sheila Cannon</i>
<i>Salt Lake Community College:</i>	<i>Kevin Doney and Desi Nielsen</i>
<i>Snow College:</i>	<i>No one in attendance</i>
<i>Southern Utah University:</i>	<i>Sheri Butler, Travis Rosenberg, Ron Cardon, and Bruce Barclay</i>
<i>University of Utah:</i>	<i>Jennifer Reed</i>
<i>Utah State University:</i>	<i>Taci Watterson, Craig Whyte and Bill Jensen</i>
<i>Utah State University – College of Eastern Utah:</i>	<i>Juanita McEvoy and Kim Rasbold</i>
<i>Utah Valley University:</i>	<i>No one in attendance</i>
<i>Weber State University:</i>	<i>Kristie Nielsen and Betty Gilchrist</i>

Approve Minutes

The minutes from our November meeting were reviewed by the delegates. Bill Jensen made the first motion to approve the minutes with Jennifer Reed second, and the vote was unanimous. Sheila Cannon will send the minutes from October and November to Travis Rosenberg to be posted to our web page.

Miscellaneous Business

Christy Cushing, a representative from Utah Public Employees Association (UPEA), attended this meeting. She introduced herself and gave a brief overview of UPEA. It is the largest public employee organization in the state of Utah. They represent public employees during legislative sessions and provide services to employees when they have issues with human resources at the various agencies.

Public employees can join this association and the dues are \$6.92 from each pay period. She mentioned that they are interested in partnering with UHESA and the state institutions, to gain more employee participation.

Travis asked if she might be able to come and attend our May meeting. That way we can meet her in person and we can discuss this in further detail. Christy said she would be glad to come and mentioned that in the meantime we can look at information on their web page at www.upea.net. They have a list of bills that they are tracking there.

We thanked her for coming, and Bill Jensen mentioned that he has her contact information.

Next Meeting Schedule

Sheri asked everyone to calendar the following meetings.

- February 16th, UHESA Day at the Capitol from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
- March 21st, Telephone Conference Call Meeting from 2:00 to 3:00 pm

Legislative Report

Bill Jensen mentioned that our UHESA legislative letter was sent out. Many of the delegates thanked him for doing such a good job with the letter. He gave a brief overview on the budget process. When Governor Herbert put forth his budget, he was kind to higher education but not to salary increases. There is a \$400,000,000 surplus; however, the legislature is getting hit on all sides for salary increases. Therefore, it won't be much for us, maybe 2 to 3%.

Jennifer Reed mentioned that their Vice President of Legislative Affairs met with the Governor. The vice president told their staff last Thursday, that the Governor originally set a 1% salary increase for public employees except for higher education. However, he realized that this was a mistake and said that he would support a budget from the legislature that included higher education employees. Therefore, if so, it would really be more like 1%.

Bill mentioned that next week, the house and senate meet to set their budgets, which gets followed very closely. When he hears what happens, he will let us know.

Sheri said that after the meeting and research by Senator Urquhart at each campus, he has determined that salary increases are probably the highest need at this time. Therefore, he might be a resource for us.

UHESA Day at the Capitol – February 16

We will meet at 10:00 am for one hour in the Spruce Room of the Senate Building, which is located on the east side, in the southwest corner of the building. We can park in the public parking lots or on the street.

Bill invited Senator Lyle Hillyard to speak with us on that day, but his schedule is not set yet. He asked Craig Whyte to contact the Senator the week before our UHESA day, to see if we can make an appointment with him to meet with us during this time.

Delegates who have not been to the Day at the Capitol were curious as to how the whole process works, and Bill gave a brief review. There are tables set up outside of the session and they have messengers who will take notes from us into our legislators. If the legislators have time, they will come out and visit with us. We are one of many pots that they are looking at, however. He will give us some training on this beforehand.

Sheri mentioned that she had never attended UHESA day until last year. She found it to be very educational. She feels that our voice needs to be heard and nothing will happen if we don't make ourselves known.

We are only allowed to order 25 booklets for free, and Bill has ordered them for us. These booklets list all the current representatives and senators and their districts.

Bill mentioned that last year, we had about 40 staff members attend UHESA Day, which was a good turnout. Many of the delegates are planning to bring a number of staff with them this year. Staff members are required to take a vacation day if they attend.

Campus Reports

Weber State University (WSU)

Betty Gilchrist mentioned that the Classified Staff Association has been working on handicap parking safety issues. Many spots are not located next to the buildings and there are concerns with snow and ice.

She mentioned that their Wellness Center has a program entitled "Wellness Pays". There are four categories that employees can choose to participate in. They will receive \$20.00 for each category, and can receive a maximum amount of \$200.00 as a supplement to their pay check.

WSC has their day at the Capital on Thursday, February 2.

Kristie Nielsen mentioned that the Professional Staff Association has been providing welcome packets this year to new employees. They have updated their web site and bylaws.

She mentioned that they have monthly recognition awards and give Superman t-shirts out along with them. They are having trouble getting employees to nominate people; therefore, if anyone has any ideas, she would appreciate hearing from you.

Utah State University-Eastern (USU-CEU)

Juanita McEvoy mentioned that they have had some rough months with the changes in student services; however, things seem to be settling down now.

She also mentioned that they have trouble getting nominations for awards; therefore, she would appreciate some suggestions as well.

Utah State University (USU)

Bill mentioned that he met with the president of their Faculty Senate about trying to get more of a voice on campus. He discovered that they don't have much more of a voice than their two staff associations do. Each organization meets with the vice president who is assigned to them and then those individuals report to the President of the University.

Taci mentioned that they will have a Health Advocate Brown Bag Lunch next week. They will also hold a staff appreciation luncheon the last week in March.

University of Utah (U of U)

Jennifer mentioned that they now have two finalists for their presidential search. A selection will be made on Friday and she has the opportunity of participating in the interviews on Thursday. It will be nice to have this finalized.

She has counseled with their human resource department on developing training for specific job types.

Jennifer mentioned that they will have a Poster Day at the Capitol on the first day of the legislative session. The U of U day has decided not to have a day on the hill. However, they hope to have a good turnout on UHESA Day.

Southern Utah University (SUU)

Sheri mentioned that they held a legislative forum the first week in January and about 60 people attended, which was very successful. Travis mentioned that Representative Bickers attended.

The Provost's office has requested some specific training for their administrative staff. Therefore, they are working with their human resource office on getting this set up.

She mentioned the scholarship program that they have for students.

They are currently receiving nominations for outstanding and distinguished staff awards.

Salt Lake Community College (SLCC)

Desi Nielsen mentioned that they are trying to strengthen staff relationships with the faculty. Representatives from each organization attend each other's board meetings, which has been very positive. They recently completed a Food Bank competition between the organizations. It went very well and encouraged team building.

She mentioned their Presidential forums that are being held every two months on the various campuses. These forums are question and answer sessions.

Desi mentioned that they give out monthly Staff Star Awards. They also have Outstanding Staff Awards, which are presented to six full-time and three part-time staff employees. A monetary award is given as well. Their President makes the final determination as to who receives these awards. She mentioned that they also have trouble getting nominations from the employees.

She mentioned that they have staff nights at their basketball games.

They are working on updating their staff web page so that it is more user-friendly.

A legislative training day was held in December and they had a good turnout. They should have a fairly good turnout at UHESA Day.

Dixie State College (DSC)

Sheila mentioned that the two associations are working on a Benefits Fair in March.

They will also have a legislative brown bag lunch in March and this will be for all staff members.

The Classified Staff Association will hold a spring social in April.

She mentioned that they also have trouble getting nominations for the Employee of the Semester (fall and spring) and Employee of the Year Awards. Sheri mentioned that they made their forms available on the web rather than having them submitted on paper, and that seems to work better.

Adjourn the Meeting

Sheri thanked everyone for attending this meeting and mentioned that she looks forward to seeing everyone at UHESA Day. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.