

**MINUTES OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

Thursday, November 15, 2007 – 1:00 p.m. – Room W110 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Greg Bell, Senate Chair
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, House Chair
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Brent H. Goodfellow
Sen. Peter Knudson
Sen. Dennis E. Stowell
Rep. Ron Bigelow
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. John G. Mathis
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss

Members Absent:

Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Task Force Business

Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

Chair Bell recognized Dr. Richard White, who is the new president of UCAT (Utah College of Applied Technology). Dr. White spoke about his experience with applied technology education.

MOTION: Rep. Moss moved to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dmitrich and Sen. Knudson were absent for the vote.

2. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Utah College of Applied Technology - Governance and Operations"

Mr. Larsen distributed and reviewed a handout, "Recommendations for the Higher Education Task Force Regarding the Utah College of Applied Technology, August 17, 2007 - Richard E. Kendell, Commissioner of Higher Education." The recommendations address capital facilities, budgets, and applied technology degree programs.

Mr. Larsen distributed and gave an overview of 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Utah College of Applied Technology - Governance and Operations." He explained that the bill modifies provisions relating to UCAT and its college campuses.

Dr. Richard E. Kendell, Commissioner of Higher Education, and Mr. Jared Haines, Acting President, UCAT, responded to committee members' questions regarding the draft legislation.

Mr. Don Ipson, Chair of Trustees, UCAT, made recommendations pertaining to the draft legislation. He expressed concern with having the Board of Regents set the salary for campus presidents.

Mr. David Buhler, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, commented on the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Holdaway moved to amend the 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Utah College of Applied Technology - Governance and Operations" as follows:

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Page 2, Lines 58-59: Delete lines 58-59

Page 5, Line 133: Delete "State Board of Regents" and insert "Utah College of Applied Technology Board of Trustees"

The motion passed with Rep. Bigelow voting in opposition. Sen. Dmitrich and Sen. Knudson were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Holdaway moved to amend the 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Utah College of Applied Technology - Governance and Operations" as follows:

Page 4, Line 123: After "by" insert "a search committee, the majority of members of which shall be from"

The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dmitrich, Sen. Goodfellow, and Sen. Knudson were absent for the vote.

Mr. Tom Bingham, President, Utah Manufacturers Association, asked for clarification on Rep. Holdaway's amendment.

MOTION: Sen. Stowell moved to amend the 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Utah College of Applied Technology - Governance and Operations" as follows:

Page 7, Line 209: After "Trustees" delete "and" and insert a comma

Page 7, Line 210: After "Management," insert "and public education entities,"

Page 7, Line 211: After "campuses" insert "for secondary public education buildings in reasonably close proximity to those college campuses"

The motion failed with Sen. Stowell, Rep. Holdaway, and Rep. Bigelow voting in favor. Sen. Dmitrich and Sen. Knudson were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Holdaway moved to amend the 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Utah College of Applied Technology - Governance and Operations" as follows:

Page 7, Line 213: Delete "February" and insert "September"

Page 7, Line 220: Delete "February" and insert "September"

The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dmitrich and Sen. Knudson were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Brown moved to adopt the 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Utah College of Applied Technology - Governance and Operations," as amended. The motion passed with Sen. Stowell and Rep. Bigelow voting in opposition. Sen. Dmitrich and Sen. Knudson were absent for the vote.

3. Utah Student Association

The Task Force heard proposals of the Utah Student Association, a student organization that represents the interests of Utah's college and university students.

Mr. Peter McChesney, Student Body President, Utah State University, and President, Utah Student Association; Mr. Kelly Stowell, Executive Director, Utah Student Association; and Mr. Spencer Pearson, Student Body President, University of Utah, and Executive Vice President, Utah Student Association, gave a slide presentation and distributed a handout, "Utah Sales Tax Exemption of College Textbooks Talking Points." They gave an overview of the Utah Student Association's initiatives, including requests for funding need-based scholarships and a sales tax exemption for textbooks.

4. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Higher Education Enhancements"

Sen. Stowell distributed and reviewed the 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Higher Education Enhancements." He noted that the bill appropriates monies to certain institutions within the State System of Higher Education.

Mr. Buhler stated that the appropriations reflect the priorities of the State Board of Regents.

No action was taken on the bill.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Moss moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Dmitrich and Sen. Knudson absent for the vote.

Chair Bell adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.