

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**
Tuesday, August 14, 2012 – 3:00 p.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Aaron Osmond, Chair
Sen. Karen W. Morgan
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart

Members Absent:

Sen. Mark B. Madsen

Staff Present:

Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst
Ms. Debra Hale, 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. Committee Business

Chair Osmond called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

2. Consideration of Proposed Appointment of Mr. David L. Buhler as Commissioner of Higher Education

Mr. Buhler introduced himself to the committee and described his professional and personal background. He addressed the importance of higher education and the opportunities and life improvement it provides. He emphasized the need to make higher education accessible and affordable and to provide the workforce needs of the state. He listed the principles he views as imperative to meeting these goals: 1) unity within the system of higher education; 2) credibility by providing reliable answers; 3) innovation to compete in the world today; and 4) focus to move the state forward.

Mr. Buhler concluded by commenting that he looks forward to an open and constructive relationship with the Legislature to move the state forward in educational excellence.

3. Consideration of Proposed Appointment of Marlin K. Jensen as a member of the State Board of Regents

Mr. Jensen introduced himself to the committee and described his professional and personal background. He described his experience with higher education as a consumer rather than an educator. He emphasized his great willingness to learn and be of service and that he is looking forward to making contributions to the policies and administration of higher education.

Both appointees entertained comments and questions from the committee.

Sen. Stephenson distributed to the appointees for their review the following documents: "Hard Times: College Majors, Unemployment and Earnings: Not All College Degrees Are Created Equal" and "STEM" from Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, and "Disrupting College" from Dr. Clayton Christensen et al.

Ms. Bonnie Jean Beesley, Chair, State Board of Regents, favorably recommended both appointees for confirmation. She discussed the process the board used in appointing a commissioner.

MOTION: Sen. Urquhart moved that the committee favorably recommend the confirmation of Mr. David L. Buhler as Commissioner of Higher Education. The motion passed unanimously.

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MOTION: Sen. Stephenson moved that the committee favorably recommend the confirmation of Mr. Marlin K. Jensen as a member of the State Board of Regents. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Osmond adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.