

MINUTES OF THE  
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2006, 2:00 P.M.  
Room W020, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex

Members Present: Sen. Greg Bell, Co-Chair  
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, Co-Chair  
Sen. Carlene Walker  
Sen. Patrice Arent  
Rep. Sheryl Allen  
Rep. David Clark  
Rep. Bradley Daw  
Rep. Margaret Dayton  
Rep. John Dougall  
Rep. Susan Lawrence  
Rep. Scott L. Wyatt  
Rep. Patricia W. Jones  
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss  
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff

Members Excused: Sen. Peter Knudson  
Sen. Dan Eastman

Staff Present: Spencer Pratt, Senior Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
Rolayne Day, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: John Sutherland, Chair, Technology Initiative Advisory Board &  
VP Engineering, Cemaphore Systems  
John Hill, VP Human Resources, L-3 Communications  
Brett Webster, Northrop Grumman  
Chris Durham, Pres. Merit Sensor Systems  
Stan Lockhart, Spokesman, Micron Technologies  
Sarah George, Executive Dir., Utah Museum of Natural History  
Dr. Duncan Metcalf, Associate Prof., UU Archaeological Center  
David Gessell, VP Utah Hospital Association  
Pres. Darrell White, UCAT  
Kim Wirthlin, VP for Government Relations, UU  
Donna Lister, Department Chair, SUU & Chair, Nurses Leadership Forum  
William Baer, Dixie Library Director & Chair, UALC  
Dr. Joyce Ogburn, Director, UU Marriott Library

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

1. Call to Order—Committee Co-Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.
2. Engineering Initiative—John Sutherland, Chair, Technology Initiative Advisory Board, and Vice President of Engineering, Cemaphore Systems, introduced himself as did various representatives from Utah businesses who support the Engineering Initiative.

Mr. Sutherland distributed a report showing what has happened over the last five years since the Engineering Initiative began. The number of engineering graduates has increased 46% at the nine engineering and pre-engineering schools, research has grown by 38% (\$15 million), 78 new faculty members have been recruited, and several research programs have begun. There is still strong support

from industry because the Initiative is working, and there is an even greater demand for engineers today. Mr. Sutherland also noted that 70% of the bachelor degree graduates find jobs in Utah with an average salary of \$50,000.

The Technology Initiative Advisory Board requests \$2 million in on-going funding and \$1 million in one-time funding for the Engineering Initiative.

Rep. Holdaway assumed the committee chair.

Rep. Dougall asked what other countries are doing in engineering. He also asked what could be done in the junior high and high schools to promote classes that prepare students for engineering. Mr. Sutherland said that China has an initiative to create 100 Harvard-class institutions. Europe graduates a significantly higher number of students in science and technology than the US. There is, however, a misconception that all the jobs are going to India and China; that is not true.

Mr. Sutherland said that some high school graduates do not have the science and math requirements necessary to get into the engineering schools. The engineering deans and department heads are engaged in outreach to get more high school students interested in joining the engineering programs. Mr. Sutherland said that public education should raise graduation requirements so that more high school graduates are prepared in math and science. He also believes that the entrance criteria for higher education should be raised and that high school students should take four years of English, four years of science, and four years of math because that is what is required for the current economy.

Sen. Bell resumed the Committee chair.

Rep. Jones asked if the engineering goal will be achieved if funding is met. Mr. Sutherland said the Initiative is reasonably on track for the dollars that have been invested. The original objective was to double the number of engineering graduates; the real question is if doubling is enough. Rep. Moss said finding teachers in math and science is difficult because potential teachers can often make double the salary outside education. Mr. Sutherland said public education has now accepted that a differential teacher salary is necessary for math and science.

John Hill, Vice President of Human Resources, L-3 Communications, said without the Initiative his company would be short engineers; they have hired 521 engineers over the last five years. L-3 has grown 20% in that time and it wouldn't have happened without the Initiative.

Brett Webster, Northrop Grumman, said his business employs several hundred engineers and works with several subcontractors that have that many or more. They depend on the flow of engineering talent, particularly those from the U of U and USU Engineering Schools. Mr. Webster said there is an engineer retirement wave coming.

Chris Durham, President, Merit Sensor Systems, expressed continued support and appreciation for the Engineering Initiative. His business expects double-digit growth over the next few years, so Utah graduates are critical.

Stan Lockhart, Micron Technologies, said his business is consistently in the top ten companies that are issued patents. To counter a price decline in microchips and to remain competitive, Micron needs good quality engineers. Micron has a robust scholarship program for both high school and college students, and Utah students have received more scholarships than students in any other state.

Rep. Holdaway said the Engineering Initiative is one of the greatest economic development decisions the Legislature has made, and it needs to continue.

3. University of Utah Museum of Natural History—Sarah George, Executive Director, Utah Museum of Natural History, discussed the request of \$55,000 in on-going and \$30,000 in one-time funds for scientific research in Range Creek Canyon. Scientists have become aware of an astonishing richness and important resources of information about the Fremont culture (100-1300 A.D). It is also one of the most pristine sites in North America.

Visitation at Range Creek is increasing, and some sites already show early stages of deterioration because of the visitors. Dr. George said it is critical that the resources of the Canyon be recorded and understood. This request would allow a one-third time curator, one-third time maintenance staff, and a one-half time manager to support the Range Creek director; one-time funds would be used for a field vehicle. There is a potential for big return to the State, but they are in a race for time.

Sen. Bell said the Range Creek request is a real priority. Sen. Arent thanked Rep. Allen for her support and work to get funding for this project. Dr. Duncan Metcalf, Associate Professor, University of Utah Archaeological Center, said archaeologists have surveyed 340 sites, only 10% of the entire Range Creek Canyon.

**MOTION:** Rep. Allen moved to approve minutes of the January 25, 2006, and January 26, 2006, meetings.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Nursing Initiative—Dave Gessell, Vice President, Utah Hospital Association, said the private/public partnership between his Association and the Legislature has helped mitigate a nursing faculty shortage. Last year the hospitals promised \$1 million if the Legislature would appropriate \$2 million. The hospitals came up with more than \$1 million, but the Legislature only appropriated \$1.3 million with some additional one-time funding that went to UCAT. The current request from the Utah Hospital Association is for the Legislature to appropriate \$700,000.

Kim Wirthlin, Vice President for Government Relations, U of U, said Nursing Initiative funding has allowed the U to educate more faculty and students. They expanded the distance Ph. D. Program, and expanded the master's level program from 2 to 12 students. An accelerated, second-degree track option is now available that allows students with a related degree to complete the nursing requirements in 15 months. Undergraduate students have increased from 175 to 200, and the increased faculty numbers allow a summer program. The U of U has hired two new doctoral faculty and two new clinical faculty since July.

Sen. Bell said nursing has created a kind of “kingdom” because of the scarcity of nurses. Medical personnel such as EMTs and medics who have served in the military have significant medical experience. He encouraged the nursing departments to recognize some of these non-traditional backgrounds as prerequisites for nursing programs.

Donna Lister, Department Chair, SUU, and Chair of the Nurses Leadership Forum, said they are looking at alternative backgrounds for nursing students' pre-qualifications and to get into nursing school. The State should begin to see the benefit of the Nursing Initiative as students graduate this coming May. Ms. Wirthlin said there is still a serious nursing shortage, especially as more people retire. Rep. Shurtliff said UCAT has done a great job getting many people started on a nursing career.

Sen. Arent thanked the Utah Hospital Association for bringing money to the table to help solve the nursing shortage. She declared a conflict of interest because she is on the University of Utah Hospital Board.

Rep. Holdaway assumed the committee chair.

5. Utah Academic Library Consortium—(Tab 3, page 17) Analyst Spencer Pratt said the Analyst recommends an on-going appropriation of \$500,000 to digitize some collections and for other support. William Baer, Library Director, Dixie State College, and Chair, UALC, said the Consortium needs electronic resources to support needs at all the colleges throughout the state, especially at the smaller colleges that don't have the money to buy databases. There has been no new funding over the last five years even though costs increase each year.

Dr. Joyce Ogburn, Director, U of U Marriott Library, said the 35-year history of both public and private libraries in Utah working together to benefit everyone equally is remarkable. The funding request would allow creation of a management plan for a digital repository to share and preserve many knowledge bases in Utah. The digital repository would serve all academic disciplines and would hold, share and keep safe many types of information including audio-visual files. The request would also fund three regional director positions.

Rep. Daw suggested that Google pay for the privilege of indexing this type of database. Dr. Ogburn said the UALC doesn't want Google to have any level of ownership, they want to make sure the repository is available to everyone worldwide.

6. Jobs Now Initiative—UCAT President Darrell White said the Jobs Now Initiative was established in the 2005 General Session with a \$1 million appropriation. One-third of the money went to other USHE institutions, and two-thirds went to UCAT. The Initiative is aimed at short-term, technical training that is at the heart of the UCAT mission. The training is for documented, available jobs in Utah, and with relatively high pay for which there are not enough people to fill the jobs. Training programs are designed for one year or less to get people into the workforce. The training is task specific and employer directed. UCAT created programs for approximately 2,100 available positions. This resulted in 940 additional students above any other training, and 297 of those students have been placed. Other USHE institutions have created programs as well, with current Job Now enrollment over 300.

Dr. White said there is some confusion about the difference between Custom Fit and Jobs Now. Custom Fit is for employed individuals as support for new and existing businesses. Jobs Now is for people who are not currently employed, but who need skills to be able to get employment for identified jobs. The funding request is \$1 million for other institutions and \$2 million for UCAT programs. This request would allow the USHE to double the number of people in the programs. The Analyst recommends one-time funds, but the USHE would prefer the funds to be on-going.

7. Committee Business—Rep. Holdaway said the next Committee meeting is Thursday afternoon. The Campus Compact and a report on UCAT will be heard, and then the Committee will begin discussing prioritization and the different requests. The only thing that isn't on the current priority list is Range Creek; Mr. Pratt will add that to the list and e-mail it to Committee members.

**MOTION:** Sen. Walker moved to adjourn.

Committee Co-Chair Holdaway adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Rolayne Day, Secretary.