

MINUTES OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
THURSDAY, February 2, 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: Pres. Ann Millner, WSU
Linda Dunn, Executive Director, Utah Campus Compact
Robert Schmidt, USU Service Learning Coordinator
Brenda Kowaleski, WSU Faculty
Micah Keith, SUU Studentbody President
Pres. Darrell White, UCAT
Pres. Michael Bouwhuis, DATC
Rep. Michael Noel

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

1. Call to Order—Committee Co-Chair Holdaway called the meeting to order at 2:22 p.m.
2. Campus Compact—WSU Pres. Ann Millner, who also chairs the Campus Compact Board of Directors, said the Compact facilitates service learning on college campuses. The Compact began 20 years ago and has grown to include 950 colleges and universities across the nation—Utah is the only state that has every public and private college and university involved.

Executive Director Linda Dunn said the Compact involves a presidential board of directors, a faculty consulting corps, community partners and alumni, community service directors, and a student board. Robert Schmidt, USU Service Learning Coordinator, said the real world experiences service learning provides is invaluable to both students and the community. He said that any discipline can fit service learning into the curriculum.

Brenda Kowaleski, WSU faculty, said the Campus Compact provides vision and leadership and it inspires faculty to get students civically engaged. Micah Keith, SUU Studentbody President, said the student board works on statewide and local projects. The theme and focus for this year is "Get Engaged in your Community." Pres. Millner said the Campus Compact requests a \$25,000 increase for FY 2007.

MOTION: Rep. Daw moved to approve minutes of the January 30, 2006, meeting.

The motion passed unanimously with Reps. Dayton, Wyatt, Moss and Shurtliff absent for the vote.

3. UCAT—President Darrell White discussed the five priority requests from UCAT: (1) compensation equivalent to state employees and retention funds (\$480,000); (2) the Jobs Now Initiative and various campus-based initiatives (\$8,703,800); (3) infrastructure and operational needs for leases and utility rate increases (\$1,719,200); (4) one-time requests (\$3,371,200); and (5) supplemental requests (\$238,500).

President White said he is concerned that the Analyst's recommendation of \$750,000 for Jobs Now is one-time money, and that would make it difficult to hire employees. UCAT has set up 21 new training programs on the 9 campuses under the Jobs Now Initiative. There are 637 students now enrolled in Jobs Now training; 297 have received employment, but there are 2,100 job opening that have been identified.

UCAT campuses have identified region-based needs that are grouped into four categories: (1) nursing and healthcare programs at BATC, DATC, MATC, and SLTATC; (2) petroleum technology and mining safety programs at UBATC and SEATC; (3) manufacturing and composite materials programs at DXATC and OWATC; and (4) a diesel and heavy equipment mechanics program at SWATC. President White made a presentation and distributed a handout to Committee members, and discussed each of the campus requests in detail.

Rep. Michael Noel spoke in favor of the SWATC request of \$144,000 to fund a partnership with the Kane County School District to build a facility in Kanab. Kane County needs to create jobs so people can stay in the area and support their families. The building request will go through another committee, but the SWATC is requests funding for technical training programs for the jobs that are being created. Right now, people in Kane County have to drive to Cedar City or St. George for training, and that takes 1½ to 2 hours one way.

Co-Chair Bell assumed the committee chair.

Pres. White reminded the committee that UCAT must first look for buildings to lease rather than request brick and mortar funding, and that can be awkward. Sen. Walker said the Building Board has prioritized three buildings for ATCs this year. She asked how Legislators know UCAT has searched for something more economical than three brand new buildings. Pres. White said they work very hard to find buildings to lease before requesting a new building. The Building Board also does extensive research before making recommendations.

Sen. Walker asked why there is such a big increase in the requests for Nursing Initiative programs (approximately \$300,000 at each of the four requesting institutions). DATC Pres. Michael Bouwhuis said most of the requests are for expensive, up-to-date equipment. The new technology shortens clinical time and allows nursing students to graduate faster. It also makes it possible to conduct programs with 25% fewer faculty. The request would add 40 practical nursing graduates each year. Pres. Bouwhuis said some of the equipment could be bought with one-time money. Sen. Bell asked Pres. Bouwhuis to work with

Pres. White to decide what could be bought with one-time money and what is needed as on-going; the report should be ready by Monday.

4. Committee Business—Sen. Bell said Committee co-chairs met with Commissioner Kendell, Associate Commissioner Buhler, UCAT President White and UEN Executive Director Michael Peterson. The co-chairs charged the group to prioritize the Regents' request assuming an amount of money that might be available. An agreement was reached, and that list will be available to the Committee on Monday.

Rep. Holdaway resumed the committee chair.

Sen. Bell said the Senate Majority Caucus reviewed the Capital Facilities funding list and suggested that House caucuses do the same; the Senate is close to consensus. Rep. Holdaway said the Executive Appropriations co-chairs have agreed to take the subcommittee prioritization lists seriously. Whatever amount of money is given from the Executive Committee will be applied to the prioritized list the Higher Education Subcommittee decides upon.

Rep. Shurtliff asked for a list of base budget amounts for each of the items on the priority list. Analyst Spencer Pratt will get that for Monday's meeting.

Sen. Bell said the priority list agreed upon by the Commissioner and others will be e-mailed to Committee members. It does not include salaries or COLA, nor health insurance and pension obligations; those items will be handled by Executive Appropriations Committee.

MOTION: Rep. Clark moved to adjourn.

Co-Chair Holdaway adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Rolayne Day, Secretary.

Sen. Greg Bell, Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, Committee Co-Chair