

MINUTES OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2001, 2:00 P.M.
Room 223, State Capitol Building

Members Present: Sen. Lyle Hillyard, Committee Co-Chair
Rep. Afton Bradshaw, Committee Co-Chair
Sen. Paula Julander
Rep. Patrice M. Arent
Rep. Katherine M. Bryson
Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff
Rep. Richard M. Siddoway
Rep. Gordon E. Snow
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Members Excused: Sen. Peter Knudson
Sen. Steve Poulton
Rep. Martin R. Stephens

Staff Present: Boyd A. Garriott, Senior Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Debra Headden, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Rolayne Day, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Commissioner Cecelia Foxley
Blaine Petersen, Utah State Office of Rehabilitative Services
Olga Nadeau, Director, Center for Disability Services, UU
Ray Schoffield, SLCC Engineering Student
Lori Cox, UU Student & Intern for the Leg. Coalition for People with Disabilities
President Steven Bennion, SUU
Michael Wasden, SUU Studentbody President
President Robert Huddleston, Dixie State College
Bill Fowler, Vice President for Student Services, Dixie State College
Sen. Bill Hickman
President Grace Sawyer Jones, College of Eastern Utah
Rep. Brad King, Dean of Students, College of Eastern Utah

Visitor List on File

Committee Co-Chair Hillyard called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

1. Voc Rehab and ADA—Fiscal Analyst Debra Headden said the Americans with Disabilities Act is designed to remove obstructions that prevent disabled persons from fully participating in activities available to the general public. Higher education has a further programmatic responsibility to provide disabled students with the kinds of help they need to succeed academically. Voc Rehab has been providing funding, but are not able to continue; higher education must pick up the funding in order to meet student needs. If additional funding becomes available, the analysts recommend that the Legislature increase the appropriation for ADA support by \$400,000 in one-time funding and appropriate \$738,000 to replace Voc Rehab money that is no longer available.

Co-Chair Bradshaw assumed the Committee chair.

Commissioner Foxley said the Regents' budget request combines ADA (\$400,000) and Voc Rehab (\$738,000) funding for a total of \$1,138,000. Higher education and Voc Rehab have worked together to keep on-going programs running and to serve student needs. Blaine Peterson, Utah State Office of Rehabilitative Services, reported that Utah has the most effective programs and is the most cost efficient of the ten western states. Voc Rehab has spent \$5,552,833 for individuals at higher education institutions via Disability Resource Centers on each

campus. Rep. Arent said this is an area that has been neglected and she encouraged funding this year. Sen. Hillyard noted that the funding request is for programmatic needs rather than physical needs.

Olga Nadeau, Director, Center for Disability Services at the University of Utah, said there has been a dramatic change in the kinds of services necessary and a strong increase in the number of ADA students in higher education. Although there has been some one-time funding in the last few years, they have not received any new on-going money in quite some time. Interpreters, for example, are not being paid a fair salary. Smaller schools have limited ADA budgets; even one student needing an interpreter could consume their entire budget. Schools have provided services beyond their budgets and absorbed the costs so students could be served.

Ray Schoffield, SLCC Engineering student, has been able to learn vital study skills with ADA help and can now work on his own; he has made the Dean's and President's Lists in recent semesters. Lori Cox, UU Student and Intern for the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities, is a political science major who is confined to a wheel chair. She has had the help she needs to take notes and to do her course work; classes have even been moved so that she has access. Both students said the funding requests are necessary for them and others to reach their goals.

2. Southern Utah University—President Steven Bennion described SUU as a comprehensive, regional university that emphasizes superior teaching, quality service to students, scholarly activities, public service, academic excellence, lifelong love of learning, ethics, and values. They deliver undergraduate and graduate programs in business and technology, education, humanities and social sciences, performing and visual arts, and science. SUU provides service to the entire state through the Utah Rural Summit/Utah Center for Rural Life/21st Century Community Program, the Utah Summer Games, the Utah Shakespearean Festival, and the SUU Headstart program. Students from all 29 counties attend SUU, 60% from the 15 counties south of Payson, 30% from the 14 northern counties, and nearly 10% from other states and foreign countries. SUU can provide high quality educational experiences because of dedicated faculty, staff, and administration.

SUU conducted a reprioritization and reallocation activity last year where all programs and services were reviewed for strength and how critical they are to the school's mission. SUU supports the governor's budget recommendation for higher education and the Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology Initiative. They also endorse the new funding formula. SUU requests funding for a bachelor's program in engineering science that will build on their strong pre-engineering program. President Bennion said Utah needs funding to convert one-time money to on-going, growth for new students, operation and maintenance of new facilities, increases in the capital budget, and the Engineering and Technology Initiative. Specific SUU requests include \$335,000 for adjunct and wage-related support, \$300,000 from the Governor's initiative for the Engineering Science degree, \$250,000 for undergraduate research, and funding for a badly-needed Teacher Education building.

Studentbody President Michael Wasden, is from Idaho. He went to Ricks College for the first two years and then transferred to SUU, a school he feels has the high standards and excellence he was looking for. One of SUU's strengths is the College of Business and Technology.

3. Dixie State College—President Robert Huddleston discussed DSC's new two-tiered mission statement reflecting the changed status to a four-year institution. President Huddleston discussed two of their core indicators: (1) Student goal attainment, and (2) Persistence. Students are tested in core areas during their first semester and then again in capstone courses to measure effectiveness in reading, writing and math. President Huddleston mentioned several demographical statistics for the college and Washington County. They support the funding formula and their main concern is higher salaries for faculty. He directed the Committee to page 4 of their handout that details the budget requests. Academic strengths include the health sciences, technology, and sciences. The FTE/headcount mix has changed in the last several years as more and more people have moved to Washington County; they are no longer a resident institution.

Rep. Dayton questioned the high percentage of students needing developmental education. President Huddleston said the percentage is going down and that even Harvard has some developmental education in areas like math. Dixie's academic vice president is working with the high schools to try to get the numbers down. It was also noted that 70% of their freshmen have either financial aid or scholarships. Sen. Hickman spoke in support of both Dixie and SUU and said that faculty salary levels are a high priority.

Rep. Jones asked if there are needs that are not on the Regents' request. President Huddleston said there are many more needs that don't make it through the budget process to this level. He would be glad to share all of them (contained in a book) with anyone on the Committee. There is a specific need to finance the Fine Arts Center; they have a \$3 million donation towards the building that they may lose if the State doesn't provide funding this year. Rep. Dayton said it is embarrassing and a disappointment that our society pays athletes more than the real heroes—teachers.

4. College of Eastern Utah—President Grace Sawyer Jones said CEU is way behind on funding. Rep. Brad King, Dean of Students, said CEU's role is a unique one in the southeastern portion of Utah. They are an academic leader that responds to community needs as well as finding ways to address the future. They are an economic contributor putting almost \$50 million into the service area through direct expenditures and by employing approximately 600 residents. They work with community agencies and civic organizations on various projects and with employers and prospective business owners to assist in marketing, forecasting, training, etc. The college conducts academic programs to provide degrees and certificates relating to the geographical setting and surrounding resources. They provide instruction in computer-assisted design, graphics arts, mathematics computing, writing, the arts, electronic presentations, and other specialized areas. They have been innovators in distance learning for several years.

CEU is the cultural and entertainment center of Southeastern Utah. They are a center for inquiry and imagination with their dinosaur museum and astronomy facilities and faculty are used as resources throughout the community. The nursing program and AHEC center provides a health care center for the region. Rep. Johnson said CEU is a beacon of opportunity that has changed the nature of the entire area. He expressed support for the funding formula.

President Jones said a building on the Price campus is a priority (it is not seismically safe) as well as base funding for the Castle Dale and Moab facilities (\$450,000). It isn't fair to the rest of the college to operate these facilities without base funding. She feels it would be unconscionable for her to leave the institution in debt and asked the Committee to fund these areas. The current Castle Dale facility is shared in a partnership with USU. The CIB may help fund the building itself, but they need full-time personnel to operate the facility. There has been some outmigration in the area resulting in a slight drop in enrollments, but figures this semester, show an increase of 80 headcount and 45 FTE.

MOTION: Rep. Snow moved to adjourn.

Committee Co-Chair Bradshaw adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Rolayne Day, Secretary.

Sen. Lyle Hillyard, Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Afton Bradshaw, Committee Co-Chair