

**MINUTES OF THE  
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
Room 210 Senate Building, State Capitol Complex  
February 13, 2013**

Members Present: Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Senate Chair  
Rep. Keith Grover, House Chair  
Rep. Spencer Cox, House Vice Chair  
Sen. Patricia W. Jones  
Sen. Aaron Osmond  
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson  
Sen. John L. Valentine  
Rep. Derek E. Brown  
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards  
Rep. Don L. Ipson  
Rep. Dana L. Layton  
Rep. Kay L. McIff  
Rep. Maria H. Poulson  
Rep. Dean Sanpei  
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent: Sen. J. Stuart Adams  
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson  
Rep. Jack R. Draxler

Staff Present: Mr. Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Manager  
Ms. Angela Oh, Fiscal Analyst  
Lorna Wells, Secretary

A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at  
<http://le.utah.gov/asp/interim/Commit.asp?Year=2013&Com=APPHEd>

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

**1. Call to Order.** Co-Chair Urquhart called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

**2. Committee Business – Follow-ups**

**3.**

Mr. Pratt explained the data distributed regarding budgets per degrees awarded for both the USHE system and the UCAT system. He reported that they were simple averages, and did not include non-completers or students who may transfer. The last two pages depict the degrees awarded per \$100,000 for state funded expenditures and tuition and fee revenues at the national level. Sen. Valentine thanked staff for the helpful information. Co-Chair Urquhart asked the institutions to provide follow up information regarding the data.

Mr. Pratt distributed a handout entitled USHE Education and General and State Tuition Funding FY 2000 through FY 2012. This adds a line for FTE Student Enrollment to the data that is currently in the Budget Binder. Dividing the state funding by the student enrollment gives the state funds per FTE. Dividing the tuition and fees by the FTE gets you the total tuition and fees per FTE.

Rep Layton asked if the charts of degrees per \$100,000 of expenditures and revenue that compare Utah to other states included tuition. Mr. Pratt answered that both charts did include tuition.

**4. Degree Category Completion Data- Commissioner David Buhler**

Comm. Buhler responded to previous questions from the Committee. The first handout distributed depicts the

Completion of Bachelor Degrees. The data reflects the percentage of students who completed their degree in the field of study where they started, the percentage of students who completed a degree in another area, as well as the total percentage of degrees.

**5. Institutions' Efforts Towards Remedial Math - Commissioner David Buhler**

**6.**

Comm. Buhler reported to the Committee that the USHE institutions have initiated numerous strategies regarding developmental math. These strategies include placing students accurately, getting to credit faster, and improving instruction. He praised the institutions on their cooperative efforts.

**7. Presentation: Dixie State College, Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Analyst**

**8.**

Mr. Pratt reported that the Budget Brief for Dixie State College (DSC) is under Tab 12. DSC had almost 6,600 FTE students last year. The Education & General line item covers 99.7 percent of the budget. The other line items are Educationally Disadvantaged and the Zion Park Amphitheater. Mr. Pratt explained the FY 2014 Funding Mix which is about 50/50 between tuition and state funding. The retention rates are nearly 60 percent; the graduation rate was 28 percent; and about 50 percent of classes are taught by regular faculty. If additional funding is approved, the Analyst would recommend \$900,000 towards the 66 percent goal and \$439,500 for mission-based funding equity for FY 2014.

**9. Presentation: Dixie Applied Technology College, Angela Oh, Fiscal Analyst**

Ms. Oh stated that the Budget Brief for the Dixie ATC (DXATC) is under Tab 15, beginning on Page 17. The total FY 2013 appropriated budget for DXATC was \$2.4 million and budgeted FTE was 29. Should additional funding be available, the Analyst would recommend \$880,200 to expand campus capacity. This would include three program expansions and two new programs: CNC and CNA. Page 18 shows the DXATC accountability details with about 42,000 membership hours for high school students and about 225,000 hours for adults. Student headcount is about 900 high school students and 5,800 adults. In FY 2012, DXATC awarded 455 certificates.

**10. Pres. Stephen Nadauld, Dixie State College and Pres. Kelle Stephens, Campus President DXATC**

**11.**

Pres. Nadauld and Pres. Stephens described the cooperation that exists between DSC and the DXATC. He mentioned the fact that expenditures per FTE are the lowest in the state. Pres. Nadauld and Pres. Stephens emphasized that in Dixie there is one school district, one ATC, and one university. They have worked on seamless articulation, program integration, value for prior learning, career options, access, and cooperation. Students who come to DXATC and get a certificate can articulate to DSC and get an AAS or an AS Degree, and then a Bachelor's Degree. DXATC encourages high school students to attend DXATC and get some skills so they can earn more while working towards a Bachelor's Degree. They reported that there are about 1,200 students in Concurrent Enrollment. There will be 45 students who get both their high school diploma and Associate's Degree at the same time. They discussed the success of the K-16 alliance. They have a regional coordinating council and discussed several of the programs that demonstrate this cooperation between Dixie State, the ATC and the High Schools. They reported on the cooperation between private sector industries and non-profit organizations.

Pres. Stephens explained some of the budget priorities at DXATC. 1) base compensation package. 2) funding to meet industry demands for a CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machining program. DXATC received \$750,000 in equipment donations from industry. They are asking for \$880,200 to start several industrial and medical programs.

Pres. Nadauld listed some of the budget priorities at Dixie State College: 1) base compensation package; 2)

\$311,900 in mission based performance funding to strengthen health occupations, computer science, and education; 3) equity funding of \$614,000 is critical, they have had a huge surge in enrollment; 4) to meet the 66 percent goal they would request \$900,000 towards STEM and \$225,000 in scholarships; 5) they are requesting \$4 million for university implementation.

Pres. Stephens introduced Dawn McDonnel, who is a former student at DXATC and is now the plant manager at SKF Polyseal in La Verkin. Ms. McDonnel stated that the DXATC has opened doors and opportunities for her. She started as a custodian and is now plant manager and attending DSC. Pres. Nadauld said that the Manufacturing University program is a perfect example of the cooperation between the agencies.

Rep Ipson commended Pres. Nadauld at DSC and Pres. Stephens at the DXATC for their ability to work together and with industry.

Co-chair Urquhart echoed those sentiments. He mentioned that he and Co-Chair Grover want input on the budget. The Committee needs to decide what the funding priorities are for FY 2014. He has been instructed by Sen. Hillyard and the Exec. Approp. Committee to give them recommendations if there is no new revenue, recommendations if there is \$10 million in new revenue, \$20 million in new revenue, and so forth.

#### **12. Presentation: Southern Utah University, Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Analyst**

Mr. Pratt indicated that the Budget Brief for Southern Utah University (SUU) is behind Tab 9. He discussed the comprehensive mission of SUU. The FY 2012 enrollment was 6,427 FTE students. The biggest line item is Education & General which covers 99.7 percent of budget. The three smaller line items are Educationally Disadvantaged, Shakespeare Festival, and Rural Development. He reported that tuition covers 54 percent of the funding mix and state funding is about 46 percent. SUU's share of the 2020 goal would be just under \$1 million; and mission based and equity funding would be just under \$300,000. Mr. Pratt said that retention rates at SUU are about 65 percent and the graduation rate is 42 percent, with between 80 and 90 percent of classes being taught by regular faculty. The current Base Budget request for FY 2014 is \$66 million.

#### **13. Presentation: Southwest Applied Technology College, Angela Oh, Fiscal Analyst**

**14.**

**15.** Ms. Oh stated that the Budget Brief for Southwest ATC (SWATC) starts on Page 29, under Tab 15. She said that the SWATC Base Budget for FY 2013 was \$2.7 million and 31 budgeted FTE. Should additional funding be available, the Analyst would recommend \$891,200 for SWATC to increase campus capacity. This request would include four program expansions and two new programs. The SWATC student headcount was just under 2,000, with nearly 300,000 membership hours. High school students accounted for 80,000 membership hours and adult students 217,000 membership hours. In FY 2012, SWATC awarded 145 certificates.

**16.**

#### **17. Pres. Michael Benson, Southern Utah University President**

**18.**

Pres. Benson introduced Mr. Jim Johnson, who is the superintendent of the Iron County School District and on the SUU Board of Trustees. Pres. Benson presented a brief history of SUU and stated that it is the collegiate gateway to America's national parks. He mentioned the forged partnerships with the school districts, the ATC's, and businesses. He reported that students from every county of the State attend SUU. He discussed the success of the football program. Co-chair Urquhart commented that academics are of utmost importance to each of the athletes, who maintain high GPAs.

Pres. Benson told about the success of Cam Levins, who won two NCAA championships as well as the Bowerman Award, the most prestigious collegiate track and field honor in the nation. He stated that Cam Levins graduated with a degree in exercise science.

Supt. Johnson discussed the opportunities provided by the K-16 alliance. He discussed the partnership and collaboration between SUU and SWATC. He stated that they have had great success in advising and putting Iron county young people on the right track. He said that the admission standards for SUU have been raised and local students have met those standards and are eligible to attend SUU. He discussed the Success Academy on the campus of SUU and the partnership with the SWATC and especially more STEM programs. He stated that in Higher Education there is sometimes conflict, funding issues, and turfism; but these do not exist in this alliance. Pres. Benson mentioned that involvement at the Trustees level has helped this alliance. Pres. Benson discussed the alliance with DSC and the DXATC.

Co-chair Urquhart mentioned the positive effect that higher education can have on public education. SUU raised admission standards which impacted the preparation of high school students. He asked if this helped high school students. Supt. Johnson answered that they have encouraged high school students to enroll in more difficult courses and to be ready to meet their higher standards.

Pres. Benson discussed several top rankings of SUU. SUU has focused on improving retention rates and graduation rates. He reported that the graduation rate for 2004 was 34 percent; and in 2011 it was 45 percent. He stated that last Fall, SUU led the USHE system in budget related FTE growth and in head count growth at about 3 percent. He mentioned their "Thunder Bard" project.

Sen. Jones congratulated Pres. Benson on the improvement of graduation rates and retention rates. She asked if he had data available by gender. Pres. Benson answered that their female to male ratio is about 55 to 45, and the graduation rate is aligned with those numbers. He mentioned that they have a current challenge is to ensure that the female students who leave for L.D.S. missions return to SUU and complete.

#### **19. Pres. Dana Miller, Campus President, Southwest Applied Technology College**

Pres. Miller asked Todd Bingham, President of the Utah Manufacturers Association to join him. Sen. Valentine asked Pres. Miller to address why the SWATC tuition and state funding is five times greater than the average in the State.

Pres. Miller mentioned that SWATC is in Cedar City. It was established as a service region to coordinate CTE offerings. He stated that they will soon be getting a building. They are partners with SUU and have developed strategic alliance agreements including program transfers, sharing space, articulation, and long-term regional CTE planning. They cover the largest region in square miles. SWATC provides training in 12 locations. He answered Sen. Valentine by stating that many of the programs at SWATC are not part of the COE accredited programs, so they are not counted in these statistics. He will provide more answers off-line. They offer programs with secondary students; adults, and Custom Fit training. They have 13 accredited programs. They would like to build programs in allied health, manufacturing, welding technology, and culinary arts in partnership with SUU. The SWATC budget request includes \$80,600 to expand distance education and \$375,000 in health care. They have a goal in rural regions to provide more blended learning experience.

Mr. Bingham reported that the Utah Manufacturers Association has worked closely with the UCAT system. Manufacturing is the largest exporter in the state and a skilled workforce is critical. He discussed the importance of market-place relevance. He mentioned that for every engineer, or chemist, they need seven other certificate-bearing individuals. These certificates would be important in achieving the 66 percent goal.

Pres. Miller said that the SWATC budget request includes increased capacity in the professional truck driving program and the renewable energy program. He discussed the success of two specific students. They had a 100 percent licensure rate; they increased the number of secondary students; and received the Blue Sky Grant from Rocky Mountain Power. SWATC was recognized as the organization of the year.

**20. Presentation: Utah Medical Education Program, Angela Oh, Fiscal Analyst**

**21.**

Ms. Oh reported that the UMEC Budget Brief was under Tab 16. She stated that the UMEC was established during the 1997 General Session. It focuses on evaluating current and future healthcare needs, retention of medical professionals, and facilitation of rural training. The Adjusted Base Budget for FY 2014 is \$1.8 million. At this time, they do not have any building block requests. She explained the graphs depicting the retention rates in Utah, indicating that the most recent data is from 2010.

**22. Utah Academic Library Consortium - Mr. Rick Anderson, Interim Dean, U of U Library**

**23.**

Mr. Anderson introduced Kim Rollins, the UALC public affairs director. He introduced other members of the UALC Council in attendance. He explained that the UALC is a consortium of all the USHE institutions' libraries. Last year over 17.5 million students in Utah used one of the research databases. The UALC has purchased 34 shared databases. He noted that the prices for these databases increase 8 to 10 percent per year. Because of these increases, they have had to cancel some of the databases and individual institutions have had to spend more to obtain these databases. The UALC is asking for an increase of \$300,000 in on-going funds; and a \$300,000 one-time increase. This would allow them to obtain four of the core databases. Mr. Anderson showed the cost savings that could occur when institutions share these databases.

Co-chair Urquhart asked if the UALC has approaching institutions and asking them for a partial assessment for these databases. Mr. Anderson answered that the institutions do pool resources, and the UALC works to ensure that they are using the most of this combined purchasing power. This means is the larger institutions have had to pay for these specific databases individually and the smaller institutions have had to do without

**24. Issue Brief – USHE Student Financial Aid – Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Analyst**

**25.**

**26.** Mr. Pratt explained that this issue brief was under Tab 3 and Page 19. Should additional funding be available, the Analyst recommends \$500,000 towards the Regents' Scholarship program and \$2 million for the Success Stipend success stipend, which is a need-based financial-aid program. There has been an increased need for both programs. This allocation would assist 2,350 students.

Sen. Jones asked if there was a waiting list for the Regents' Scholarship. Mr. Pratt explained that there is not a waiting list, all eligible students get something. There is an amount of money allocated and the more eligible students who apply mean that the amount of the actual award goes down.

Co-Chair Urquhart asked if additional funding was needed for the New Century Scholarship. Mr. Pratt reported that the demand for this scholarship has stabilized.

**27. Issue Brief – USHE Vehicle Expansion – Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Analyst**

**28.**

**29.** Mr. Pratt explained that this issue brief is under Tab 3 and on Page 9. He indicated that for FY 2014 three of the USHE institutions are requesting authorization to expand their fleets for a total increase of 14 vehicles.

**30. Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** Rep. Layton moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Committee Co-Chair Urquhart adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Minutes were reported by Lorna Wells, Secretary.

---

Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Senate Chair

---

Rep. Keith Grover, House Chair