

**RESOLUTION HONORING OUTGOING USU
PRESIDENT KERMIT L. HALL**

2005 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Fred R. Hunsaker

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor expresses appreciation to outgoing Utah State University President Kermit L. Hall.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

► expresses appreciation to outgoing Utah State University President Kermit L. Hall for his years of service to the students, faculty, and staff of the university and for his commitment to excellence.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, Kermit L. Hall, President of Utah State University, has announced that he has been named President of State University of New York at Albany effective February 1, 2005;

WHEREAS, Kermit L. Hall was named the 14th President of Utah State University on January 2, 2001;

WHEREAS, President Hall's four years of service at Utah State University have been filled with tremendous dedication, energy, and accomplishment;

WHEREAS, President Hall declined to have a traditional inauguration and instead pledged \$10,000 of his own money to be used to establish a student inaugural scholarship fund, saving the university \$50,000;

WHEREAS, the scholarship fund is now worth \$850,000;

WHEREAS, President Hall introduced a new funding relationship between the university and its departments that matches funding allocations with departmental objectives;

WHEREAS, President Hall helped the university create a role statement and ten well-defined university goals that are centered on the university's historical mission as the state's only land grant university, and key decisions are made based on meeting these university goals;

WHEREAS, "academics first" became President Hall's rallying cry, and in 2003 the fall freshman class was the best prepared class Utah State ever admitted academically, with an average grade point average of 3.6 and an average age of 18;

WHEREAS, Utah State University's incoming freshmen athletes have an 80% graduation rate, ranking the university in the top ten nationwide;

WHEREAS, in May 2004 the university participated in its second Roads Scholars Tour, which showcased the university's new faculty and staff and introduced them to the state of Utah;

WHEREAS, during his service, President Hall saw Utah State University honored with its first Rhodes Scholar in 22 years;

WHEREAS, President Hall helped the university to develop a new mission that supports the vision of the State Board of Regents for the university's place in the state's system of higher education;

WHEREAS, Utah State University was the first to develop this mission statement and was cited by the State Board of Regents as a model for other institutions to follow;

WHEREAS, under President Hall's urging, the way in which Utah State University measured research productivity was significantly changed, emphasizing the same measuring standards applied by the National Science Foundation and the Carnegie Foundation;

WHEREAS, despite historical state budget cuts amounting to some \$14 million, President Hall insisted that student tuition dollars earmarked to the university be used, in part, to hire more teachers and advisors, resulting in the student/faculty ratio declining from 27:1 to 21:1;

WHEREAS, during the past 18 months, he has coedited two books, "The Oxford Companion to American Law and Constitutionalism," and "American Culture: Writing the New

Constitutional History";

WHEREAS, early in his presidency, Kermit L. Hall vowed to meet Utah residents in every county, and later he also milked a cow from every county and forged new friendships and reintroduced and endeared many hundreds to the state's land grant institution;

WHEREAS, despite the demands on his time, President Hall, who is also a history professor, took time out of his schedule to teach advanced classes in constitutional history;

WHEREAS, since he arrived four years ago, key decision makers around the state and the nation have come to know and respect President Hall for his vision and insights regarding higher education in Utah and the nation;

WHEREAS, President Hall has helped to reduce administrative costs by collapsing the College of Family Life and dispersing departments among the university's existing seven colleges, and reorganized the president's executive committee to reduce the number of vice presidents traditionally required of similarly sized institutions;

WHEREAS, under his urging, university administrators, faculty, and staff were asked to join him in giving up a portion of their day to help new students move into their campus housing units;

WHEREAS, President Hall instituted a "Graduate in Four" program that encourages students to graduate in a timely manner by following a prescribed curriculum plan, and if the student follows the plan but does not graduate in four years, the university covers the student's last year of tuition;

WHEREAS, under President Hall's leadership, Utah State University advanced from not being a member of any athletic conference league to joining the Sunbelt Conference and recently accepted an invitation to join the Western Athletic Conference;

WHEREAS, under President Hall's direction, a child care development center will be constructed to provide services for children of students, faculty, staff, and community members;

WHEREAS, under President Hall's direction, Utah State University has seen its research funding increase to record amounts;

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2004, under President Hall's direction, Utah State University

came together with the community to hold a benchmark summit that combined university expertise with community know-how to address environmental sustainability, economic growth, and demographic diversity, with the goal to make Cache Valley a better and even more rewarding place to live, work, and study;

WHEREAS, President Hall has always been a champion of the open process and demonstrated his commitment to this approach by taking his proposal for a tuition increase over three years directly to the student body six months in advance of the usual timetable for these discussions; and

WHEREAS, President Hall will be greatly missed by all those he has touched through his leadership and service:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, express gratitude to Kermit L. Hall for his years of service and dedication as the President of Utah State University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Kermit L. Hall.