



# DRAFT MINUTES

## HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Friday, January 26, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. | 110 Senate Building

### Members Present:

Sen. Keith Grover, Senate Chair  
Rep. Karen M. Peterson, House Chair  
Rep. R. Neil Walter, House Vice Chair  
Sen. David P. Hinkins  
Sen. Karen Kwan  
Sen. Michael K. McKell  
Sen. Ann Millner  
Sen. Kathleen A. Riebe  
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson  
Sen. Evan J. Vickers  
Sen. Chris H. Wilson  
Rep. Walt Brooks  
Rep. Brett Garner

Rep. Jon Hawkins  
Rep. Michael J. Petersen  
Rep. Rex P. Shipp  
Rep. Mark A. Strong  
Rep. Douglas R. Welton  
Rep. Stephen L. Whyte

### Members Absent:

Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

### Staff Present:

Ben Leishman, Finance Manager  
Joseph Ryan Fitzgerald, Financial Analyst  
Lorna Wells, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

## 1. Call to Order and Recognition of Board Members

Chair Grover called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

## 2. Weber State University

Brad Mortensen, President, Weber State University gave an overview of WSU with the assistance of Dr. Travis Price, Department Chair, Health Sciences Program.

### [3a-WSU Presentation 24GS](#)

Jessica Stratton, Student Pathway Award Winner, Student Presidential Leadership Fellow, shared some of her experiences at Weber State University.

Pres. Mortensen welcomed Casey Hill, WSU Board of Trustees.

Sen. Kwan thanked Jessica for sharing her story and thanked WSU for working with students on having access and success. Sen. Kwan asked about the statistics on ethnicity and gender as far as access and success.

Pres. Mortensen responded.

Sen. Millner praised Jessica for her extraordinary accomplishments and mentioned all of the other WSU student stories.

### MOTION:

Rep. Hawkins moved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 16 - 0 - 4.



Yeas - 16

Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. B. Garner  
Sen. K. Grover  
Rep. J. Hawkins  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Sen. K. Kwan  
Sen. M. McKell  
Sen. A. Millner  
Rep. K. Peterson  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Sen. J. Stevenson  
Rep. M. Strong  
Rep. R. Walter  
Rep. D. Welton  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. M. Petersen  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Sen. E. Vickers  
Rep. M. Wheatley

### **3. Utah Valley University**

Astrid Tuminez, President, Utah Valley University gave an overview of UVU with the assistance of James Mortensen, Vice President of Finance.

[4a-UVU Presentation 24GS](#)

Rep. Shipp thanked Pres. Tuminez for her leadership.

Rep. Whyte asked about the financial perspective from the large number of concurrent enrollment students at UVU. Pres. Tuminez responded.

### **4. Southern Utah University**

Mindy Benson, President, Southern Utah University gave an overview of SUU.

[5a-SUU Presentation 24GS](#)

Rep. Walter asked how SUU and the other institutions are combatting the current national narrative that higher education is too expensive and not worth the cost. Pres. Benson responded.

Sen. Vickers commented about his personal connections to SUU.

Rep. Shipp expressed gratitude for the student-focused nature at SUU.

Sen. Riebe expressed gratitude for the teacher accreditation partnerships at SUU.

Sen. Hinkins asked for clarification about the expenditures for the FY 2019. Pres. Benson responded.

### **5. Prosperity 2020 Report Update**

Aaron Anderson, Partner, Cicero Group gave an overview of the report.

[6a. Prosperity 2020 Presentation 24GS](#)

Rep. Peterson assumed the chair.

Sen. Riebe asked how the financial barriers can be overcome and about online resources available. Aaron Anderson responded and continued the presentation.

Sen. Kwan asked about ethnic and gender access and completion demographics. Aaron Anderson responded.

## **6. Requests for Appropriation**

### **Educating High-Temperature Materials Engineers for Hypersonics**

Rep. Calvin Musselman explained this funding request with the assistance of David Ferro, Dean, College of Engineering, Applied Science and Technology, WSU and Doug Case President, Utah Boys State.

[RFA - Educating High-Temperature Materials Engineers for Hypersonics](#)

### **Western Heritage Sustainability**

Sen. Derrin Owens explained the RFA with the assistance of Kendra Bagley, Coach, Snow College Rodeo Team and Abby Richards, Snow College Rodeo team.

[RFA - Western Heritage Sustainability](#)

Sen. Owens introduced other rodeo team members.

### **Utah Fire & Rescue Academy**

Sen. Wayne Harper explained this RFA with the assistance of Bradley Wardle, Director Fire Rescue Authority Utah Valley University, and Clint Smith, President, Utah Firefighters Association.

[RFA - Utah Fire & Rescue Academy - Mobile ARFF Training Prop](#)

Sen. Wilson asked if the training included how to fight fires with electrical aircraft. Brad Wardle responded.

### **Aviation Maintenance Training Expansion**

Rep. Brooks explained this funding request with the assistance of Jared Britt, Director of Global Aviation Maintenance Training and Pres. Benson.

[RFA - Video for SUU Aviation Maintenance Training Program](#)

[RFA - Aviation Maintenance Training Expansion](#)

Sen. Vickers indicated that this is a high priority of the state and asked about the placement rate and wages. Jared Britt responded.

### **Intern Training and Recruitment for Policy Centers**

Rep. Hawkins explained this RFA with the assistance of Vince Brown, Director of the Institute of Politics, Utah Tech University; Justin Jones, Executive Director, Gary Herbert Institute for Public Policy, Utah Valley University; and Jennifer Seelig, Director of Community Partnerships, USU.

[RFA - Intern Training and Recruitment for Policy Centers](#)

Sen. Riebe expressed the importance of a civically engaged program at the high school level.



### **Civic Thought and Leadership Initiative**

Rep. Jefferson Burton explained this funding request with the assistance of Matthew Brogdon, Senior Director of the Center for Constitutional Studies and Hank McIntire Director of Engagement, Utah Valley University.

[RFA - Civic Thought & Leadership Initiative UVU](#)

Rep. Welton expressed support for this funding request.

Chair Karen Paterson asked if the request is scalable. Rep. Burton and Matthew Brogdon responded.

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

Chair Karen Peterson adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.