



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.

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 - 0Absent - 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.