UVU BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 8, 2009
7 p.m., Alumni House

Board of Trustees Members Present
Janette Hales Beckham
Greg Butterfield
Daniel W. Campbell
Timothy R. Clark
Paul B. Clyde
Steven J. Lund
Carolyn H. Merrill
Doyle M. Mortimer
Terry E. Shoemaker
Joseph Watkins

UVU Regular Attendees
Elizabeth J. Hitch, Interim President
Chuck Allison, Faculty Senate President
Cory Duckworth, Vice President Student Affairs
Val Hale, Vice President Advancement and Marketing
Linda Makin, Executive Director of Planning and Budget
Clint Moser, PACE President
Karen Olsen, Secretary to the Board
Val Peterson, Vice President Administration and Legislative Affairs
J. Karl Worthington, Interim Academic Vice President

Board of Trustee Member Excused
J. Scott Jenkins

Guest
Jacob Adams, Intern for Planning and Budgets

Dinner guests were members of student government executive council and their guests – Joseph Watkins, Kyle Brown, David Smith, Trevor Tooke and Courtney Welch.

I. ACTION

A. Oath of Office for Greg Butterfield. Trustee Chair Janette H. Beckham administered the Oath of Office to Greg Butterfield. Trustee Butterfield introduced himself and told about his background.

B. Policy 333. Criminal Background Check. Vice President Val Peterson explained this policy became necessary in 2007 when the state legislature passed the background check law. This policy mirrors Regent policy and state statute. UVU is partnering in a state RFP for a provider. This policy outlines the process that will be used and any necessary action. The concern was exempting adjunct faculty, and due diligence. Policy allows for background check or adjust faculty, although the intent is to exempt adjunct faculty. It was noted policy allows adjunct faculty to self-disclose, and if there was concern a background check could be completed. Best practices will be researched. Trustee Mortimer motioned for approval of Policy 333. Criminal Background Check, with a wording change under Procedure B.1, second sentence to read “shall” instead of “may”, with this change subject to approval by the Attorney General’s office. Trustee Shoemaker seconded. Voting was unanimous.

C. Nominations for Awards of Excellence ad hoc review committee. Trustees Mortimer and Lund have agreed to review nominations for the Trustee Awards of Excellence. Trustees will have access to applications to review immediately following the January 31 deadline. Their recommendations will be presented at the February meeting.

D. Enhanced Voluntary Separation Incentive. President Hitch explained in identifying areas for budget reductions it is important to maximum flexibility. One option was to provide incentives for separation for employees who qualify under certain standards. The incentive has been carefully written and reviewed both internally and by the UVU benefits consultant, attorney general and in consultation with other institutions. The Trustee Executive Committee approved it previously for immediate implementation, and
incentive will now be ratified by the full board. The incentive allows employees to self-select for separation, but also allows the ability to retain employees most critical to the institution. Linda Makin anticipates 10-12 individuals will ultimately be approved, which would result in a savings of 1% of the needed budget cut. Numbers approved will be governed by administration. Trustee Lund motioned for ratification of the Enhanced Voluntary Separation Incentive. Trustee Campbell seconded. Voting was unanimous.

II. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of December 11, 2008 Board of Trustees Meeting
B. Human Resources Report for November 2008
C. Investment Report for November 2008

Trustee Butterfield motioned for approval of the General Consent Calendar. Trustee Watkins seconded. Voting was unanimous.

III. INFORMATION

A. President’s Report. President Hitch reported on the following: a) top ten athletic highlights of 2008, b) awarding of the Carnegie designation as an Engaged University, c) organization change for the Center of Engaged Learning. Jack Christianson will remain as director working under direct supervision of the President. The new position of Associate Academic Vice President for Engagement will be eliminated, d) reviewed legislative priorities for funding.

Trustees Merrill and Shoemaker were thanked for their work on the K-16 Alliance.

B. Budget Reductions. Trustees were told higher education has been asked to identify 7.5% cuts for current year and 15% cut on the on-going base budget that translates to $4.9 million this year and $9.9 million of on-going reductions. Higher Education legislative appropriations subcommittee will meet the week of January 12 and again on January 21. At that point they will have identified a budget to present to Executive Appropriations, who intend to have a bill in place for action during the session. In February when tax revenues are announced, adjustments may be made. It is clear there will be reductions, but unclear the timing and level. Governor Huntsman is not in favor of the level of legislative reductions and feels there are some alternative options including bonding for roads and spreading out reductions over two years. Trustees were encouraged to contact their legislators.

Linda Makin reviewed the Guiding Principles identified by administration: a) focus on mission, strategic directions and core competencies to ensure future strength of institution, b) safeguard quality of core academic and university experience for students, c) evaluate programs and services for cost effectiveness and impact of outcomes, d) implement a variety of fiscal strategies as identified by the divisions and centrally, and e) preserve access for students and minimize level of tuition increase.

Process was reviewed. A variety of actions have been identified to help maintain flexibility: a) hiring restrictions, b) divisional reduction plans, c) voluntary separation incentive program, d) notification of non-tenure track faculty, e) review of workloads and course offerings, etc. Employees were encouraged to submit ideas and these ideas have been reviewed and discussed. From these options a budget scenario will be developed. When reductions are complete, UVU will again become a state tax-assisted institution.

Trustee Clyde motioned to move to Executive Session to consider items permitted by the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act. Trustee Shoemaker seconded. Voting was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.