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Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, June 8, 2007

Utah State University

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AGENDA

MEETING OF THE
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
TO BE HELD AT
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
OLPIN STUDENT UNION

June 8, 2007
breeding instruction to be offered that will allow students to gain very useful skills in modern equine breeding techniques. A large indoor arena will allow more than one riding class or labs to be taught simultaneously. The facility and program will give students experience and understanding of the day-to-day operations of a facility. There are no similar or equivalent programs currently approved and functioning in the USHE.

**Finances:** With planning for the construction of a new equine facility well underway, the teaching program will have additional expense. The program is designed so that most of the additional labor required to maintain the facility and program will come from students. As part of two courses, students will work at the horse facility during their sophomore and senior years. Additionally, the facility may need to provide a handful of paid student positions to overseeing the students and the daily operation of the facility in conjunction with the manager. The focus on student involvement allows students to develop and apply skills learned through courses in equine science, management, and handling. Such a focus will yield students who are confident and capable of securing and maintaining a rewarding career in the equine industry.

Additional student labor will cost approximately $32K a year. As the horses used by this program will be maintained in stalls with limited turnout in pastures, there will be additional bedding costs (approximately $7K/year) associated with this management system. This expense will be revisited as the development of pastures and the rotation of horses between stalls and turnout is developed at the new facility.

Critical faculty have been hired in support of the Equine Science and Management emphasis. The College of Agriculture has internally reallocated funds to support this emphasis. Additional operating funds for student labor and supplies will required further internal reallocation from the within the department and the college.

### iii. Western Region SARE Program to be changed to the Western Region SARE Center

**Request:** Utah State University operates the USDA-CSREES SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) competitive grants program for the eleven contiguous Western states, Alaska, Hawaii and four island protectorates that have land-grant status (Guam, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa). In January 1994, Utah State University and Professor V. Philip Rasmussen competitively won the program, which has since brought more than $40 million to Utah State University. It currently brings in approximately $3.7 million a year. SARE is a line item in the USDA-CSREES budget, not an earmark, and has been institutionalized in the USDA budget. Hence, it has attained ongoing status within USDA programs.

During its 12 years at USU, SARE has undergone USDA and CSREES audits, receiving numerous accolades for fair and equitable administration. The administrative funds to operate the program come from the annual SARE appropriations, so there is no ongoing budgetary burden on the Plants, Soils, and Climate Department, where it resides within the College of Agriculture.

Regional SARE programs are governed by congressionally mandated Administrative Councils (boards of directors), which include deans, agricultural experiment station directors, and extension directors as well as farmers and ranchers from across the West. A recent administrative review by the Western SARE
Administrative Council proposed that the SARE office at Utah State University change its name from a program to an official center. To retain this ongoing program at Utah State University, we need to comply with this request.

**Need:** When the Western SARE Administrative offices were awarded to Utah State University, Dr. Rasmussen was designated as its regional coordinator. Dr. Robert Gilliland (then Extension Director) and Dr. Paul Rasmussen (Utah Agricultural Experiment Station Director) designated Dr. Rasmussen as an Assistant Director in both organizations. This was required by USDA-CSREES so that Dr. Rasmussen could operate on a par with deans and directors across the region as he negotiated millions of dollars in contracts and grants. The recent administrative audit by SARE’s Administrative Council requires that the program receive center status at Utah State University in order for Utah State University to continue to serve as host institution.

For this reason, it is imperative that the name be changed from the Western Region SARE Program to the Western Region SARE Center. It is also necessary that Dr. Rasmussen receive Center Director status within the Administrative structure at Utah State University, which will allow for a smoother flow of a multi-million dollar operation. It will also give the program the status needed to continue operating efficiently with the other land-grant programs in the western region and islands of the Pacific.

**Institutional Impact:** We believe the name change simply reflects the current status of this multi-million dollar program. This change simply codifies that center status. The administration in the Plants, Soils, and Climate Department, as well as College of Agriculture and research, extension, and academic administrators at Utah State University have expressed support for this name change.

The change should have minimal institutional impact within the College of Agriculture, the Department of Plants, Soils, and Climate, Utah State University or any other program in the Utah higher education system. No additional faculty, facilities or equipment will be required.

**Finances:** There is no anticipated budget impact from this proposed name change. All administrative fees for the program are paid by USDA-CSREES. The administrative budget is approximately $400,000 a year, which reflects the travel required across the expansive western region. There would be no budget impact on College of Agriculture, the Utah Cooperative Extension Service or the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station.

### B. Southern Utah University

#### i. Name Changes for Two Departments Within the Beverly Taylor Sorenson College of Education and Human Development.

**Request:** In accordance with USHE R401, Approval of New Programs, Program Changes, and Discontinued Programs, Southern Utah University requests The current Department of Secondary Education will be renamed the Department of Graduate Studies in Education and the existing Department of Elementary Education and Family Development will be renamed the Department of Teacher Education and Family Development. These changes were approved by the SUU Board of Trustees on March 23, 2007.