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UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

Building a Stronger State of Minds

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
TO BE HELD AT
SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY, CEDAR CITY, UTAH

JULY 10 – 11, 2008

Utah State Board of Regents
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
Board of Regents Building, The Gateway
60 South 400 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1284

ii. *Department Restructuring: Divide the Department of Economics into the Department of Applied Economics and the Department of Economics and Finance*

Request: Utah State University requests approval to dissolve the existing Department of Economics and create two new separate departments: the Department of Applied Economics and the Department of Economics and Finance. For many decades, the Department of Economics has been jointly administered by the College of Agriculture and the Huntsman School of Business. Under the proposed new structure, the Department of Applied Economics will be created in the College of Agriculture and a separate and distinct Department of Economics and Finance will be created in the Huntsman School of Business. The two independent departments will better serve and fulfill the vision and strategic plans of their respective academic colleges.

This request involves the creation of no new degree programs and will require no additional faculty to implement the curriculum. Rather, the existing resources will be divided to form two viable academic units. Administrative responsibility for the existing degree programs will be assigned to one or the other of the new departments. In the short term, the teaching assignments of individual faculty members will remain constant. Over time, if changes to the curriculum are necessary, both departments will follow established procedures identified in university policy for proposing such changes.

Need: While the jointly-administered department has been operationally functional, that unique configuration (reporting to two deans) has resulted in some challenges. Starting in April 2007, in a series of six meetings that included the executive vice president and provost, the deans of the two colleges and the faculty of the Department of Economics, the group collectively explored and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of various administrative configurations.

The executive vice president, provost, and the deans of the two colleges concluded that the proposed structure would allow each college to fully develop and utilize the intellectual and academic resources which it is assigned. Indeed, both colleges are prepared and poised to invest in more focused economics programs which reflects their distinctive areas of academic interest and which can be synergistic with other programs in each college. While there is not unanimous agreement among the faculty of the current department, the majority of the faculty is supportive of the decision to move this proposal forward.

The new proposed organizational structure is intended to achieve several goals. USU expects the more focused academic units to:

- Achieve a greater alignment with the missions of the colleges in which they reside – becoming more of an intellectual force in their respective colleges.
- Be shaped by each department's dean and to be molded to reflect the priorities of the colleges.
- Contribute more substantially to the growth and development of students in other majors located in their college.
- Gain greater national visibility for their expertise in more defined areas of academic inquiry.
- Acquire greater financial support from their respective colleges because the respective deans' efforts and actions will be perceived as more central to the future of their respective colleges.

Institutional Impact: The proposed restructuring will not have a significant impact on enrollments in the four undergraduate majors or three minors. At the graduate level, the greater focus of the two new departments may have a small positive impact on enrollments. Administrative responsibility for the specific degree programs will be distributed in the following manner.

First, the new department in the College of Agriculture will be assigned administrative responsibility for the undergraduate majors in agribusiness (including both the business and the agricultural systems options), agricultural economics, and international agribusiness. The College of Agriculture will also be responsible for the minors in agribusiness management and agricultural economics. At the graduate level, the College of Agriculture will assume administrative responsibility for the doctorate in economics and the MS in applied economics (including the three specializations in agricultural economics, natural resource economics, and regional economic development).

Second, the new department in the Huntsman School of Business will have administrative responsibility for the undergraduate major in economics (including the emphasis areas of economic theory, managerial economics, and prelaw economics) and the economics minor. At the graduate level, this department will be responsible for the MS and MA in economics.

Administrative Structure: The proposed restructuring will result in two new departments – one located administratively in the College of Agriculture (the Department of Applied Economics) and another located administratively in the Huntsman School of Business (the Department of Economics and Finance).

Facilities: In the short term, no new physical facilities will be required. All of the faculty will remain in their current offices. In the long term (three to five years), the faculty and staff of the Department of Applied Economics will be relocated to the new Agricultural Sciences building on the University Quad.

Faculty: In the Fall of 2007, the executive vice president and provost met individually with each member of the existing Department of Economics. As part of these discussions, each faculty member was asked to designate their preferred departmental affiliation. All of the preferences of the existing faculty were accommodated. That is, each continuing faculty member was able to select with which of the two new departments they would be affiliated. By July 1, 2008, the staff will be similarly consulted and a disaggregation plan devised.

Finances: There will be some marginal additional costs associated with implementing this restructuring. For example, there is currently money in the budget for one department head. With the move to two departments, USU will identify the resources necessary to pay an administrative stipend to a second department head. Similarly, as the disaggregation is implemented fully and the two departments are physically separated, there may be a need for additional staff. Monies for these additional expenditures will come from internal college and university reallocations or the use of new discretionary monies.

iii. ***Emphasis Name Change: the Human Development Emphasis to Child Development***

Request: The Department of Family, Consumer, and Human Development in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services at Utah State University requests to change the name of the Human Development emphasis in the Family, Consumer, and Human Development major to Child