

# Senate Summary

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Meeting of the Academic Senate

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## **ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE FACULTY BY PRESIDENT YOUNG**

Celebrating his fifth year at the U, President Young commented on recent progress and future plans for the U in the areas of its mission: research, teaching, and community service. Here are some excerpts from the speech:

*Research projects, discoveries, and commercialization are bigger than ever. Our excellent research is what distinguishes us from other schools, and is a catalyst for our remarkable success in commercialization. Education at the U is extraordinary in large part because of the research that distinguishes us from other schools. In the area of research funding, last year exceeded all expectations with a record \$376.7 million raised, a 16 percent annual increase from last year (up over \$49 million) despite the economic recession.*

*Teaching has become more collaborative and more international. A visible measure of our upward momentum is reflected in the caliber of students we are attracting. The admissions index continues to be adjusted upward, while the number of students remains relatively steady. In addition to the enhanced academic standards, there is an increase in student diversity on campus.*

*If we define community as the world, as we should, our community service and service learning continue to grow as critical hallmarks of the extraordinary education available at the U. Efforts by the Lowell*

*Bennion Community Service Center and University Neighborhood Partners continue to engage others in volunteer opportunities. In the area of sustainability, the goal is to balance the relationship among environmental stewardship, economic development, and social responsibility. To that end, we're leading out with LEED-certified buildings like the recently completed Sutton Building and the USTAR Sorenson Nanotechnology Building currently under construction. To see what's ahead, review the new campus master plan.*

A recording of President Young's speech will be available soon online ([www.admin.utah.edu/president](http://www.admin.utah.edu/president)). The campus master plan also is online ([www.campusmasterplan.utah.edu](http://www.campusmasterplan.utah.edu)).

## **SUMMER WORK BY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Acting on behalf of the senators in meetings during the summer, the executive committee approved an emphasis for undergraduate art majors, modified five policies to accommodate gender identity and gender expression issues for non discrimination, and approved a policy (5-305) to expand reduced tuition to domestic partners. Three new degrees were approved: a Master of Real Estate Development and an associated Graduate Certificate in Real Estate Development, both from the business school, and a joint degree in Master of Public Administration and Master of Public Health. All have been approved by the Board of Regents.

Undergraduate council reviews were approved from ethnic studies and the international studies program. Graduate council reviews were approved from the music school, civil and environmental engineering, communication, physiology, pathology, and the Master of Statistics program. Annual reports were reviewed and approved for the following committees: Academic Freedom and Faculty Rights, Academic Policy Advisory, Faculty Budget and Planning, Library Policy Advisory, University Diversity, and University RPT Standards.

In addition, the executive committee approved the appointment of three new deans: Taylor Randall (business school), Charles Wight (graduate school), and David Rudd (social and behavioral science). The committee endorsed President Young's appointment of Steve Ott as dean emeritus of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and David Chapman as dean emeritus for the Graduate School.

Last, the executive committee approved a rules change which establishes procedures for online voting for both the executive committee and the full senate. A description of the processes is included in the new Senate Handbook.

### **REPORT FROM ASUU**

ASUU President Tayler Clough reported on two major initiatives by ASUU for the year. A community mentoring program, in partnership with the College of Education, provides an opportunity for 14 graduate students to mentor 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to help prepare them for college; and the student fee committee is working with vice presidents Dave Pershing and Paul Brinkman—not to remove any fees, but to review them to better understand how they're being used.

### **SENATORS APPROVE THREE NEW PROGRAMS**

- **Informatics Graduate Certificate**

This certificate expands the existing certificate to include nursing informatics students, faculty, and courses, and allows for interdisciplinary growth into the future. The change will make the certificate more inclusive by expanding it to a broad range of disciplines beyond health sciences.

- **Undergraduate Minor in Health**

A new undergraduate minor in health offers content in the areas of public health, positive behavior change, and healthy lifestyles. The minor is designed for students entering careers other than health promotion and education who wish to have formally-recognized educational preparation in health as well as those who wish to pursue careers in other health-related fields.

- **National Center for Voice and Speech**

The National Center for Voice and Speech (NCVS)—a “center without walls”—was formally organized in 1990 with a grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders to understand and promote the best use of human voice and speech. Moving its headquarters from Denver to Utah will make the state the national focal point for advocacy in effective voice and speech use. The new center will bring together different campus entities involved in voice, including the colleges of health, medicine, fine arts, engineering, and science.

The next Academic Senate meeting will be held Monday, October 5, 2009, at 3:00 p.m., in the C. Roland Christensen Center, room 115.

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