ROCKY MOUNTAIN
PANORAMA

The Newsletter of The Rocky Mountain Association for Institutional Research

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RMAIR 1996-97 OFFICERS

President — Diane Muntal
Senior Analyst
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154 (702) 895-3771

Vice President — Hans P. L’Orange
Assistant Director
University of Colorado at Boulder
Campus Box 15
Boulder, CO 80309 (303) 492-8631

Past President — Kenneth Brown
Assistant Research Scientist
Office of Academic Planning
University of Arizona, Admin. 116
Tucson, AZ 85721 (520) 621-5715

Secretary — Jacqueline Stimpson
Director of Research & Records
Development Office, Regis College
3333 Regis Boulevard
Denver, CO 80211-1099

PANORAMA

Coordinator — Nelle Moore
Director, Institutional Research, Grant
Development and Planning
San Juan College, 4601 College Blvd.
Farmington, NM 87402 (505) 599-0438

Editor — Wendy Miley
Research Specialist, Sr
Decision & Planning Support
University of Arizona, Admin. 116
Tucson, AZ 85721 (520) 621-5717

Publisher — Diane Muntal
(see address above)

INTERCOM — A Message from the President

Ken Brown’s presidency is a hard act to follow. While chatting with him the other day, he realized that for the first time in 5 years or so, he did not have to contribute to Panorama as either editor or president. I would like to, once again, recognize Ken for his service to RMAIR. Ken is an extremely thoughtful and conscientious colleague, and it is a pleasure working with him.

Many thanks are in order to several of our hard-working colleagues. Bruce Higley (Local Arrangements Chair) and Jeane Vinsonhaler (Program Chair) treated us all to an excellent conference in Park City, Utah. Bruce must have had a direct line to the cosmos, offering us spring-like temperatures where snowstorms dominated the scene only a year before. Only the thin-blooded from the desert southwest donned their jackets in the evenings.

The conference began with a sell-out crowd attending Celia Johnson’s pre-conference workshop, Managing a Program of Outcomes Assessment. Cel participated in the Train-the-Trainer program by attending a pre-Forum workshop in Albuquerque this past spring. This experience combined with her strong background in outcomes assessment provided
conference attendees an excellent professional development opportunity at nominal cost. Thank you again, Cel!

The presenters deserve another round of applause for their hard work. The presentations were strong, informative and peppered with the type of humor well appreciated by RMAIRians. And a special thank you to the newcomers, whom we encourage to return to regional conferences and attend the national conference in Orlando. Some of us "old-timers" can still remember what it was like attending our first few conferences, and truly appreciate the effort it takes to make that first presentation and mingle with colleagues whose names you can't seem to remember.

The banquet at the historic Claim Jumper Restaurant was excellent. The musical entertainment provided by the talented group "Fire on the Mountain" set the audience's feet tapping and eyes tearing with their diverse and high quality repertoire.

As you may remember, the best presentation of the conference will be presented at the upcoming AIR Forum in Orlando. This year, the honor is conferred upon Danny Olsen (BYU) for his presentation entitled "Grade Inflation: Reality or Myth?" Congratulations, Danny! For those of you who were unable to attend the Park City conference, you will have the opportunity to attend Danny's session in sunny Florida.

We have also been offered the opportunity to recommend a community college presentation to the National Council for Research and Planning (NCRP). Nominations will be reviewed by a NCRP review committee and the paper selected will be presented at the NCRP session in Orlando. We were pleased to nominate Lou Attinasi's paper (Pima County Community College District), "When Push Comes to Shove: Ascertaining and Prioritizing the Work and Climate Values of a Two-Year Community College." Congratulations and good luck, Lou!

Hans L'Orange deserves special congratulations on his recent election to the vice-presidency. As you may recall, Hans organized the wonderful program we enjoyed in Breckenridge last fall. And many thanks to Fred Lillibridge for running for office -- the first to offer Hans hearty congratulations and much gratitude for taking on the challenge. Fred has had his hands full lately, taking care of local arrangements for the Albuquerque AIR Forum last spring. And because of his success and extensive experience, he volunteered to direct local arrangements for next fall's RMAIR conference in Cloudcroft, New Mexico! With Mark Chisholm as program chair, next year's conference is sure to be a success. Thanks to past president Susan Jones, the election ran without a hitch. Susan is also chair of the AIR Newcomers Committee this year, of special interest to those RMAIR members attending their first AIR Forum in Orlando.

Two other members of RMAIR deserve recognition. Wendy Miley is doing a wonderful job editing Panorama, and has been a tremendous help keeping us on track. Secretary Jacki Stirn is busy investing our treasury in high interest and secure investment instruments, and gathering new members wherever she can find them. We are still looking for a RMAIRian who would like to take on the challenge of publishing Panorama. Interested members should contact me immediately, if not sooner.

In the next few weeks you should be receiving your ballot for the upcoming AIR elections. One notable RMAIRian is running for membership to the Nominations Committee - Denise Sokol. Mark Chisolm is currently serving on this committee. In the past few years, we have been fortunate to have several well qualified RMAIRians serve as AIR officers and committee members. Please remember to VOTE.
Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions or questions (or nice things to say) about the organization. You can reach me at (702) 895-3771 or e-mail me at <muntal@nevada.edu>.

FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of RMAIR's newsletter will mark my first year anniversary as editor of Panorama. I would like to thank all the state reporters, both past and present; contributors; Nelle Moore, Panorama Coordinator; Diane Muntal, still publisher wannabe ex-publisher, and Kristie Gallardo ("secretary for Panorama" staff at my office) for all their support and help. Without their efforts Panorama would not be as great as it is.

Kristie has worked to give Panorama a new look, with the help of some recently acquired new software and hardware. We hope you like it and welcome any suggestions and comments (miley@oir.arizona.edu).

The recent fall conference for RMAIR in Park City, Utah was a great success. Thank you Bruce Higley who was the local arrangement chair and Jeane Vinsonhaler who was the program chair. One of the comments from a conference participant summed up the Park City experience, "I really enjoyed this conference, I didn't feel rushed." The conference hosted a well-known national speaker, Brian Nedwek, for the keynote address. Brian's address, "The Use and Misuse of Performance Indicators in Higher Education," was timely and informative. Cel Johnson broke all attendance records at her pre-conference workshop. The room was packed; as Fred Lillibridge noted, "$5 registration fee, that's a no-brainer." On the serious side, we all looked forward to an excellent workshop and Cel didn't disappoint us. She packed many useful pointers, definitions, theory, and practice for managing a program of outcomes assessment at our own institutions into her workshop. Thanks, Cel. All of the presenters at the conference gave presentations that were of the highest caliber. All in all, everyone came away with many useful ideas and information to take back to their institutions or central offices.

Check out the announcement section of Panorama for an in-depth report of the fall 1996 RMAIR conference. Van Christman has done an excellent job providing us with our annual RMAIR Conference Summary.

Congratulations, Hans. Hans L'Orange is the newly elected RMAIR vice-president. Hans will serve as vice-president this year, president next year, and past-president the following year.

Next year's RMAIR conference (fall, 1997) will be in Cloudcroft, New Mexico. Fred Lillibridge is the local arrangements chair and Mark Chisholm is the program chair. Fred will be providing announcements about next year's 1997 RMAIR conference in future issues of Panorama. The fall 1998 RMAIR conference will be hosted by Cel Johnson from Montana. Fred and Cel will be filling us in with more details at our SIG meeting during the annual AIR forum in Orlando this May 1997.

The upcoming AIR Forum in Orlando, Florida will be from May 18-21. The forum theme will be "Performance Indicators - Defining Measures that Matter".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Highlights of the 1996 RMAIR Conference by Van Christman

Once again, as we all are busy trying to keep up with the
demands placed on us, the annual fall conference of the Rocky Mountain Association of Institutional Research arrived to refresh us. The setting in Park City was beautiful and the association with colleagues was enlightening and enjoyable. I think this conference has just the right mix of free time to visit and formal presentations. Many thanks go to Bruce Higley for local arrangements and Jeane Vinsonhaler for putting together an excellent program.

The train the trainer workshop by Cel Johnson was enlightening and thought provoking. She did a masterful job of covering a lot of material in a limited time. I did wonder a couple of times if she was ever going to breathe but she made it through with flying colors. The Wednesday night early registration and social were good for getting reacquainted and for making plans for dinner. Thursday morning, the conference officially began with a welcome from Ken Brown, RMAIR President. The results of the election for vice-president, president-elect were also announced. The winner was Hans L'Orange, Assistant Director, Office of Budget and Planning, University of Colorado at Boulder. Congratulations, Hans. The Keynote address was given by Brian Nedwek, Associate Provost, St. Louis University. We were all captivated by his timely message and the reality that we need to have our respective "ships" to compete in the world we live in today. It was an excellent presentation to begin this conference on performance indicators.

Overall, the presentations and discussions were excellent. The mixture of serious material and humor was just right to keep the ideas flowing. Again, I think the real advantage of this conference is the informal setting where ideas can be exchanged. I especially enjoyed the opportunity to visit with colleagues over lunch and discuss ideas in greater detail. All of us found something that could be taken home and applied to make our offices more efficient and effective.

A highlight of the meeting was the Thursday evening dinner and entertainment. Dinner was great and the live entertainment (Fire on the Mountain) was excellent. You can't beat good food, good conversation, and good entertainment mixed. Hopefully, this fall conference in the middle of our busy schedules helps us all to stop and re-analyze where we are and where we need to go in our respective jobs.

SPECIAL FEATURE
Back by Popular Demand
RMAIR Listserv by Fred Lillibridge, List Manager

A RMAIR Listserv has been established to enhance communication and facilitate the exchange of information and data among RMAIR members. Listserv users can submit questions about research problems or interests, present information, alert others to emerging developments, and notify others about issues relevant to RMAIR Listserv users. The list's utility will evolve. Its value will depend on how it is used by members.

The listserv has been established on an INTERNET node at New Mexico State University. We will continue to upgrade the effectiveness of the e-mail software so that more features can be added in the future.

Members and other interested individuals can SUBscribe to this public list by sending the e-mail message SUB RMAIR (your name) to this address:

LISTSERV@NMSU.EDU

You will be notified by e-mail after you are added to the RMAIR Listserv.
Once you have successfully subscribed, you can communicate with all RMAIR list subscribers by addressing an e-mail message to the following address: RMAIR@NMSU.EDU

The command to SIGnoff (cancel your subscription to) the list is similar. You should use the same account you used to subscribe. Send the e-mail message SIG R M A I R t o : LISTSERV@NMSU.EDU.

If you want a list of other RMAIR listserv users, you can send the e-mail message REV R M A I R t o : LISTSERV@NMSU.EDU. This will allow you to REView the list.

An electronic copy of this article has been sent to all RMAIR members with known e-mail addresses. Please contact me if you want to receive a copy.

If you have any questions or have difficulty subscribing to the listserv, please contact Fred Lillibridge at New Mexico State University - Alamogordo, INTERNET: flillibr@nmsu.edu, TELEPHONE: (505)439-3624 OR FAX: (505) 439-3643.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

ARIZONA
by Carol Diem

Arizona Board of Regents Central Office

The Board of Regents has approved a "three-year" plan to bring salaries of faculty and staff to the midpoint of their respective markets over the next 3 years. In order to achieve this goal, a budget request of $18.9 million for FY 1998 has been submitted to the legislature.

The report of the transfer articulation task force, a task force jointly established by the Arizona Board of Regents and the Arizona State Board of Directors for Community Colleges, was presented to the Board in November. The report describes a new model for transfer, which consists of new lower division general education requirements and new common program requirements at the lower division level, each of which are incorporated into new AA and AS transfer degrees. The new requirements and degrees will transfer to the universities as blocks of credits and will satisfy requirements for graduation from the 4 year programs with which they articulate. A new organizational structure for managing the articulation of transfer courses, a new advising system, and two new computer-based information systems - a course applicability system for assisting advisors and potential transfer students and a transfer data warehouse for assisting faculty and administrators - have been proposed to support the new transfer model.

In November, each university presented their own proposal for handling a post-tenure review process. There were many similarities between the proposals, and the Board will build on those similarities and provide guidance to the Conditions of Faculty Service work group on the addition to Board policy of a post-tenure review process.

The Board also agreed that the state's business sector will review the space utilization and building needs of Arizona's public universities for a multi-year time frame, based on the direction given by the Board in their discussion of capital improvement plans. The ad hoc
committee is to ensure that currently existing space is being fully utilized before any additional buildings are constructed.

**University of Arizona** by Tom Rhodes

Fall enrollment has been one of the hottest topics in administrative circles this semester as the number of students attending the University of Arizona declined for the second straight year. The drop is especially troubling given the increased enrollment this fall at Arizona State University (ASU). ASU increased its market share of students from Maricopa County - the large urban county where the bulk of state’s population and ASU are located - while the UA’s share of those students declined. As investigations to determine the dynamics of this 2 year trend continue, a number of observations have been offered to explain the unanticipated decline.

The economy is particularly strong in Arizona, and employment may effectively compete with college attendance for some students when work opportunities are more plentiful. Increased standards in some graduate programs, the implementation of university policies to reduce enrollment in others, and the decision by the Arizona Board of Regents to decrease the mix of resident and non-resident students may all play a role in the decline. Nationally, there is an emerging trend of more students living at home while attending college, which would help explain the loss of Phoenix area students to ASU. Other factors cited include recruitment and high school outreach programs that are less vigorous than those of the other state universities.

The overall enrollment picture is not all bad news as the drop in students has been tempered with several bright spots. As a group, non-returning students had lower GPAs. With the drop in the number of out-of-state students, the overall academic quality of the remaining non-resident students was raised. Incoming student quality was up as well with 17 of the 20 annual Flinn scholars enrolled at the UA and 65 new National Merit Scholars. Student GPAs, SAT and ACT scores, and the percentage of minority students enrolled are all up from the previous year.

Arizona International Campus, the new 4 year liberal arts college affiliated with the University of Arizona and located 20 minutes southeast of downtown Tucson, began its first semester this August with an initial enrollment of 46 students.

Eight university teams were recognized in a ceremony at the State Capitol October 24th in the Spirit of Excellence Quality Award Program administered by the Governor’s Office for Excellence. The state award program is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, judging the quality, management, performance and results of public sector units implementing projects to improve overall quality. The university’s entry from the Center for Computing and Information Technology was among those selected for highest honors. The seven other UA teams were recognized for excellence by the program judge, including my unit, Decision and Planning Support.

**Pima Community College** by Lou Attinasi

The Pima Community College IR Office has completed a major study of developmental education at the college. Its findings are consistent with those of others across the country in demonstrating a relationship between completion of recommended developmental coursework and subsequent academic performance.

Pima Community College is in the process of developing an educational master plan. It is being assisted in this endeavor by MRT Associates, private consultants who specialize in assisting community colleges to plan. The process includes
educational master plan forums held on each of the college's five campuses and at the District Central Office. During these forums MRT will share the findings of their 3 month study of the college, including recommendations for the future.

COLORADO
by Pat Fay

Thanks to Utah for Hosting RMAIR

The Colorado constituency who attended Rocky Mountain AIR in Park City, Utah want to thank Utah for a job well done. Everyone had a great time. It was wonderful seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Thanks from Colorado.

Fall CAPIR Meeting

The 1996 fall meeting of the Colorado Association of Planners and Institutional Researchers will be held on Thursday, November 14 at the University Memorial Center on the University of Colorado at Boulder campus. The meeting is scheduled from noon to 3:30 pm, following the quarterly meeting of the CCHE Data Advisory Group.

Preliminary meeting topics are: (a) CCHE Update on Affirmative Action Goals & Performance Indicator, (b) SURDS Documentation on the Web: Process and Implications, (c) Student Survey Results by Department and Department Reaction, (d) A Report from the Recent Rocky Mountain AIR Meeting.

Whew - We've almost made it

I'm always completely relieved by this time of the year. How about you? The fall reporting schedule is so heavy. It's very nice to get those IPEDS and other reports done. YEA!!!!

Hans L'Orange, now Associate Director for Institutional and Policy Analysis

The Office of Planning and Institutional Research at the University of Colorado at Boulder has merged with the Office of Budgets forming a new Office of Budget and Planning headed by Ric Porreca. Hans L'Orange, formerly assistant director of planning is now the associate director for Institutional and Policy Analysis in Budget and Planning.

Hans L'Orange elected RMAIR Vice-President

Hans was also recently elected RMAIR vice-president at the annual meeting in Park City, Utah.

He has been involved in institutional research since 1988 and holds a MS degree in Business Information Systems. He said that he was trying very hard not to let all this attention go to his head.

Other CU News

The university recently embarked on a major project to rewrite its four-campus payroll and financial systems under a project labeled Administrative Streamlining Project (ASP). A primary goal, in addition to streamlining processes, is to get management information into the correct hands in a quick and efficient manner. This will be a $30 million client/server implementation with involvement from many areas of the campus and major input from the IR offices.

IDAHO
by Jerry Engstrom

Just as they did 4 years ago, Idaho voters rejected an initiative to substantially limit property taxes this election. The initiative would have severely limited the proportion of assessed value at
Ken Brown performs stoically, in what must have been an emotional withdrawal from the weighty responsibilities of office.

Bruce Higley (Local Arrangements Chair) loses focus as the conference comes to a close, while past president Larry Hunter unsuccessfully tries to avoid the hair-trigger response of the camera-woman.

Panorama Editor Wendy Miley addresses the group, while Jacki Stinn reads along.
With their terms of office behind them, past presidents Denise Sokol, Larry Hunter, Rich Jacobs, Sarah Lindquist and Ken Brown put on a happy face.

Only moments into his new role, Ken Brown adopts the “devil may care” attitude of RMAIR past presidents.
which property could be taxed. The initiative was written to protect the public schools from the reduction in property taxes by requiring replacement revenue from the state general account. Early polling information indicated the majority favored the initiative, but the governor's opposition and that of the schools changed public opinion and the initiative was defeated by a substantial margin. Those of us in higher education in the state are much relieved.

However, the sponsors of the initiative promise to have another one ready for the next election.

In other news, higher education enrollment has been level for the last couple of years in Idaho. The growth trend that saw nearly a 25% enrollment increase from 1989 to 1993 has ceased. We were a bit surprised by the extent of the enrollment growth in the early 1990s and are a bit surprised that it has stopped. Part of the explanation for both the increases and the current pattern is out-of-state enrollment. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, while surrounding states were raising tuition, the cost of attending Idaho institutions remained low. However, during the last few years the Board has raised out-of-state tuition to a level closer to surrounding states. Since that has happened, non-resident enrollments have declined.

In a move that may have a large impact on higher education in the state, the State Board of Education established a new committee that will be devoted to issues related to the approximately 70% of the population that will probably not earn a 4 year degree. The Board is defining this group as unprepared or under-prepared adults and will examine ways the group can be served better by the higher education system. The challenge to the system is to expand services at a time of level or declining resources.

MONTANA
by Cel Johnson

On November 5, 67% of registered Montana voters went to the polls and re-elected popular incumbent Republican governor Marc Racicot by a landslide. Racicot received 80% of the vote, a new state record for a gubernatorial election. Governor Racicot was a strong supporter of CA-30, a constitutional amendment before the voters to "replace the board of education, board of regents, and commissioner of higher education with a department of education and a state education commission." Higher education officials were concerned about the amendment because the duties of the proposed commission were not specified, but were to be determined by the legislature. Also, the measure would not take full effect until January 1, 2001, so the Board of Regents and the new commission would operate in tandem for 4 years.

Pre-election surveys of the electorate showed those for and against the amendment closely balanced, with a large number of undecided voters. Obviously, the undecided decided no! Only 37% voted for the amendment, while 63% opposed it. There were several initiatives and amendments on the ballot this year, and CA-30 probably got less publicity than any other. At any rate, we'll be operating under our current system for the foreseeable future.

A general feeling of relief prevails, tempered with concerns that the governor and legislators who backed CA-30 may not be favorably disposed toward a commissioner's office that they failed to oust and a system of colleges and universities that actively opposed the amendment. Also, the current system is not without its problems, and there is also concern that the vote will be interpreted by the commissioner and the Board as a mandate to continue business as usual.

On a brighter note, the Montana University System showed a
slight net gain in fall headcount enrollment, with some campuses increasing and others decreasing. Headcount enrollment in the colleges and universities is as follows:

Montana State Univ  
Bozeman 11,611  
Billings 3,564  
Northern 1,701  
Univ Montana  
Missoula 11,143  
Montana Tech 1,827  
Western Montana 1,115

Total headcount enrollment in Montana's public institutions is 37,025. This figure includes the universities, colleges, colleges and divisions of technology, and the community colleges.

NEVADA
by Jan Brown

Truckee Meadows Community College

During the fall semester of 1995, the Institutional Research Office of TMCC conducted a Student Satisfaction Survey with students who had attended during the spring of 1995 but did not return the ensuing fall. The written survey was mailed to a random sample of 1,000 students.

The survey revealed that most of the students completed their education objective at TMCC. The reason most often cited for not returning in fall 1995 was work conflicts. For the most part, the students reported they were satisfied with their TMCC experience and would attend TMCC again. They would also recommend TMCC to a friend or family member.

TMCC had previously surveyed the non-returning students in the fall of 1993, and found that with the 1995 survey they were able to measure the institution's improvement in meeting the needs of students in the future.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

UNLV's FTE enrollment increased by 3.8% in fall 1996, to 13,661. Headcount decreased slightly (0.4%), from 19,769 to 19,683.

The University and Community College System of Nevada Board of Regents has approved a $11.5 million plan, developed by UNLV, Clark County, and the Clark County School District, to move the Paradise Elementary School to the UNLV campus. The relocation of the school, comprised of a high percentage of at-risk students, will offer students in the College of Education the opportunity to complete student teaching requirements on campus and offer unique mentoring and research opportunities for UNLV faculty and Clark County School District teachers.

The Board of Regents has approved the naming of UNLV's new College of Urban Affairs for the Greenspun family in recognition of their recent gift of $1.7 million, which brings the family's total support of university programs to $5 million. The new college contains the Hank Greenspun School of Communication (named for the late founder and publisher of the *Las Vegas Sun*), the School of Social Work, and the Departments of Counseling, Criminal Justice, Environmental Studies, and Leisure Studies.

University of Nevada, Reno

Fall enrollment for UNR increased in both headcount (up 1.9% to 12,279) and FTE (up 2.4% to 9,383). The graduate student headcount increase was about equal to that of undergraduate.

In August, the U. S. Department of the Interior transferred to UNR a 63,000 sq. ft., four-story research facility. The building, formerly known as the U. S. Bureau of Mines Reno Research Center, is located on 2.4 acres of land on university grounds, and is valued at $14.1 million. Acquisition of the facility will
enable the university to expand research in mineral processing and in environmental restoration and waste management. The self-study process for the university's 10-year accreditation has had a greater impact on Institutional Research this time around than it did 10 years ago. The change in focus of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges toward more data-oriented assessment has emphasized the lack of information being kept at various levels about the university's students and processes. The self-study committee work should be completed within the next 2 months.

NEW MEXICO
by Chester Haughwout and Amy Holt

Numbers, numbers, numbers....

Public, State Institutions - Headcount

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<th>F95</th>
<th>F96</th>
<th>%Diff</th>
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<td>-3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMHU</td>
<td>2,813</td>
<td>2,751</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>WNMU</td>
<td>2,165</td>
<td>2,157</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
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First-time Freshman - Headcount

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<th></th>
<th>F95</th>
<th>F96</th>
<th>%Diff</th>
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<td>477</td>
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<tr>
<td>NMSU</td>
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<td>+4.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NM</td>
<td>1,819</td>
<td>1,660</td>
<td>-8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMHU</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>+8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WNMU</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
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RMAIR: Chester Haughwout and Alec Testa from Eastern New Mexico University recently attended the Rocky Mountain AIR Regional Conference in Park City, UT. They were very complimentary of the organizers for providing meaningful presentations. They have indicated that they will use several of the statistical models presented. As Chester says, "It was good stuff."

UTAH

Utah System of Higher Education

by Laura Lows & Joseph Curtin

Institutions in the Utah System of Higher Education prepared themselves for an enrollment decline this fall because of a 1983 law that established a statewide birthday cutoff entrance date for kindergarten. This caused a 1 year delay in entering kindergarten for many students. That cohort has now progressed through the public school system, and Utah high schools graduated 28,362 in 1996 - 1,189 fewer than in 1995. This was the first drop in high school graduations in Utah in 25 years. This was only a temporary setback as the number of high school graduates is expected to increase significantly next year. Higher education enrollment in Utah is closely linked with high school graduates, since Utah has the lowest emigration rate (the rate at which students leave the state to attend college) in the nation - in 1994, 93% of freshmen who were recent Utah high school graduates stayed in Utah.

Enrollments for the nine colleges and universities in the Utah System of Higher Education for fall Semester 1996 as reported by the commissioners office are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Headcount</th>
<th>FTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dixie College</td>
<td>5,318</td>
<td>3,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Eastern Utah</td>
<td>3,170</td>
<td>2,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow College</td>
<td>3,162</td>
<td>2,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Lake Community College</td>
<td>22,394</td>
<td>13,449</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Utah University</td>
<td>5,640</td>
<td>4,741</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Utah</td>
<td>26,359</td>
<td>20,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah State University</td>
<td>20,808</td>
<td>15,738</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Utah Valley State College
14,756    9,784
Weber State University
14,440    10,501
Total Enrollments
116,047    83,375

These numbers represent a 3% increase in headcount and a 2% increase in FTE over fall Semester 1995 for the Utah System of Higher Education.

Utah’s November ballot has three propositions which affect education funding. The ballot initiatives were a result of the last legislative session and involve changing the Utah Constitution. The first two provide assistance to K-12. Proposition 4 allows the state to back K-12 revenue bonds which gives the bonds a higher rating and lower interest rate resulting in a savings of critical state dollars. Proposition 5 opens the possibility for private money to be put into the school trust fund in support of K-12. Proposition 6 has the greatest impact on higher education. It would allow the income tax and corporate franchise taxes, where most of the state revenue growth has been, to be made available through the Uniform School Fund for higher education as well as public education. Currently in Utah, the Uniform School Fund can only be allocated to K-12

Utah State University
by Laura Lows

After the Board of Regents’ decision to convert to semesters in the fall of 1998, a system-wide task force was established to set appropriate statewide parameters to meet the timetable. Utah State has used existing committee structures, the Educational Policies Committee of the faculty senate, to coordinate semester conversion activities. As part of the process, USU has recently conducted an in-depth review of its general education requirements. The progress to date can be found on the USU’s home page at http://sss.usu.edu/~semester/.

USU’s Strategic Planning Committee is in the process of revising its strategic framework document, Focus on the Future: Utah State University in the 21st Century, based on feedback from the campus community. The current (1995) draft of the document can be seen at http://www.usu.edu/~spc/content.s.htm.

Brigham Young University
by Bruce Higley

BYU reports a fall semester 1996, daytime enrollment of 30,563 students. One-third of the students enrolled come from Utah with the remainder coming from every state in the U.S. and 86 foreign countries.

In response to the recommendations made in the University’s completed Strategic Planning/Self-study report, the provost position was eliminated and an assistant to the president is now responsible for planning and budgeting. The Office of Institutional Research reports to that assistant and will be taking on additional responsibilities for data management and will oversee the development of a data warehouse utilizing all the various data bases across campus.

Danny Olsen, former associate director of institutional research, has been appointed the director of a new University Assessment Office. It is his charge to establish a formal assessment function that will review every academic program and academic support unit on the campus every 7 years. It is the university president’s intention to have the Assessment Office and the Institutional Research Office working together to accomplish their tasks.
WYOMING

by Sue Koller

University of Wyoming

The University of Wyoming student headcount for fall 1996 is 11,251. This number is down from last year, but due to two new policy implementations, we will never know if the headcount is truly down. This year's fall freeze has been a real fiasco. In fact, a freeze date was not decided until October 31. It began with a well publicized "swipe." Students were required to swipe their identification cards in one of the designated readers during the first week of school. The swipe verified that the students were really at UW taking classes, and it allowed no-shows to be dropped from classes to allow room for students to enroll in filled classes. It was a well thought out process with careful verification as to which students were actually dropped. Though our office was dreading the swipe, this process went quite smoothly. The second policy was a financial drop of all students that did not pay their tuition by a certain deadline. Unfortunately, this policy was not well publicized, and since it was the first year of implementation, many unforeseen problems arose.

For instance, many foreign students were dropped from their classes because they were waiting for their countries to pay, and being dropped from classes, put them in violation of their visas. Some of our athletes were dropped because their paperwork was incomplete. In all, over 600 students were dropped for non-payment. Many have been reinstated, but in times of what appears to be decreasing enrollment, this was a very unpopular policy.

According to the Presidential Search Committee, the search for a new president is going well and is right on schedule. The list of candidates has been narrowed to eight, and in December, three or four of those candidates are going to be interviewed. The announcement is slated for January if all goes well.

We have filled many administrative vacancies. Lee Moon from Marshall University has become our new athletic director. One of Moon's biggest goals is to improve student attendance at athletic events. Kynric Pell is the new Engineering dean for a 3 year term. This is unusual in that Pell is supposed to retire at the end of the contracted term. Fredric Hibbler from the University of Idaho has been appointed as the new vice president for information technology and chief information officer.

Another administrative change is the vice-president for institutional advancement. Ben Blalock from the Houston Symphony was hired. Until this January, the previous vice-president, Pete Simpson, will serve as an advisor. In January, Pete Simpson will retire but will remain active at the university as he and his brother, Senator Al Simpson, will write a book about their father's life.

The trustees at UW have recently approved a master's in social work. Any new program at UW must be self sufficient, so a differential tuition of $3,400 will be charged. All base tuition will go to the university, and the differential will go to the program. Quite a lot of discussion has taken place as to whether it makes sense for all new programs to have differential tuition because of this policy. A faculty senate committee has been assigned to explore our tuition policies and the effects of raising tuition and adding differential tuitions. A direct result is that our office will be at the committee's beck and call.
Happy Holidays
from the
RMAIR Officers
"The tyranny becomes one which forces us to find the one perfect, permanent solution, instead of looking for a short-term solution to try out, knowing that it will not work forever."

Robert Zemsky, 1996 AIR Forum Opening Keynote Address