

The Board of Trustees
of the
School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration

New Policy

Policy Statement No. 04-02

Subject: Gifts

The Board of Trustees of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration met in open, public session on October 7, 2004, and by majority vote declares the following to be an official policy of the Board on Gifts.

1. Members of the Board of Trustees, the Director, and all employees of the Trust Lands Administration are governed by the provisions of the Utah Public Officer's and Employee's Ethics Act (Utah Code § 67-16-1, et. Seq.). The Board has also been given authority to establish additional requirements governing ethics of the Board, the Director, and the employees of the Administration (Utah Code § 53C-1-306).
2. The Utah Public Officer's and Employee's Ethics Act provides that the statutory prohibition against the acceptance of gifts does not apply to "an occasional non-pecuniary gift, having a value of not in excess of \$50" and several other exceptions (Utah Code § 67-16-5(3)).
3. The Board hereby creates a stricter requirement concerning the exception to the general rule involving the acceptance of non-pecuniary gifts by the Board, the Director, and the employees of the Administration and reaffirms that all other provisions of the Utah Public Officer's and Employee's Ethics Act apply to the Board, the Director, and the employees of the Administration.
4. The Board hereby defines gifts to mean anything of value, no matter how insubstantial, and therefore adopts, pursuant to its statutory authority, a requirement for itself, the Director, and the employees of the Administration, which is more narrow than the statutory exemption for non-pecuniary gifts of less than \$50 in value and which requirement bans the acceptance of all gifts, subject to the exception noted in Paragraph 5.
5. The Board recognizes that meals and social occasions are often attended by Board members, the Director, and the employees of the Administration as part of the business of the Board and the Administration. This policy does not prohibit the receipt of the value of an occasional meal or other minor benefits while in attendance at conventions, seminars, government-sponsored functions, or other meetings arranged as part of the normal course of business of the Board or the Administration.