



USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2024 at 1:00 PM MST

USU - Logan campus, University Inn, Sonne Board Room

and via Zoom: <https://usu-edu.zoom.us/j/86883870601?pwd=SzFtbCtJS2NtVnQ5YXBEOUluWDJ6UT09>

Attendance

Trustees present:

Jacey Skinner, Chair
Gina Gagon, Vice Chair
Kent K. Alder
John Y. Ferry
David H. Huntsman
Kacie Malouf

Heather Mason
David Petersen
Matthew Richey
Tessa White
Clark Whitworth

University representatives present:

Tiffany Allison
Jodi Bailey (remote)
Lisa Berreau
Janalyn Brown
Steve Campbell
Elizabeth Cantwell, President
Dave Cowley
Kerri Davidson
Alison Fabricius
Jared Gereau

Nancy Hanks
Jane Irungu
Eric Olsen
Mica McKinney
Bill Plate (remote)
Abraham Rodriguez
Larry Smith (remote)
James Taylor (remote)
Matt White
Devin Wiser

Other guests present:

Julie Hartley (remote)
Jackson Spencer (remote)
Cooper Trip (remote)

1. Welcome (Presenters: Chair Jacey Skinner)
Welcomed all in attendance and introduced incoming trustee and new USUSA President Matthew Richey.
2. Recognition and Commendation of Appreciation for USUSA President Trustee Abraham Rodriguez (Presenters: Chair Jacey Skinner)
Chair Skinner read a resolution of commendation to outgoing trustee and USUSA President Abraham Rodriguez. He was presented a gift from the board and photos were taken.
3. Oath of Office for New Trustee Matthew Richey

Oath of office was administered by Tiffany Allison.

4. Committee Reports

4.1. Executive Committee (Presenters: Chair Jacey Skinner)

Chair Skinner shared that in the Executive Committee meeting they discussed USU Policy 541: Free Expression and Assembly which they agreed should be ratified in the action agenda. Dean Al Smith also presented a letter from charter school Career Academy of Utah who wrote a letter of information stating they could not meet the standards set by Utah State University and therefore are ceasing operations. Current students have been notified and arrangements have been made for them to attend other institutions of learning.

4.2. Research and Academic Approval Committee (Presenters: Trustee Kacie Malouf)

Committee Chair Malouf shared the committee has recommended many items which the full board will vote on later in the consent agenda. She shared that the university is always looking for ways to improve applicable classes, degrees and certificates to benefit today's students.

5. President's Report (Presenters: President Elizabeth R. Cantwell)

President Cantwell reviewed the attached President's Report and mentioned several other key topics including the following. When the legislature issues the upcoming budget cuts, USU will not apply a "peanut butter" approach. Deans and Vice Presidents have been tasked with what they would do with less, or perhaps more funding. Student enrollment overall is down 5-10% from last year. This could be in part due to the nationwide issues with FAFSA.

6. Information: Investiture Re-cap Video (Presenters: Chair Jacey Skinner)

UST story: <https://www.usu.edu/today/story/tradition-innovation-combine-as-themes-during-investiture-of-usu-pres-cantwell&preview>

Recap video shown.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion:

Moved by John Y. Ferry and seconded by David H. Huntsman. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passes.

7.1. Approve: March 8, 2024, Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

7.2. Approve: April 5, 2024, Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

7.3. Approve: Tenure for Christopher R. Smith, Department Head, Biology

7.4. Approve: (AMENDED) USU Policy 105: Councils, Committees, and Boards

7.5. Approve: Proposal to Add Academic Center

7.5.1. Center for Translation and Interpretation Studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

- 7.6. Approve: Proposals to Offer For-Credit Certificates
 - 7.6.1. Didactic Program in Dietetics Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
 - 7.6.2. Dual Language Immersion Institutional Certificate of Proficiency in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
 - 7.6.3. Brain and Learning Certificate of Proficiency in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
 - 7.6.4. Mind-Body Wellness Certificate of Proficiency in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
 - 7.6.5. Infant Toddler Early Intervention Certificate of Proficiency in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
 - 7.6.6. School Leadership Post-Masters Certificate in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
 - 7.6.7. Environmental Equity Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - 7.6.8. Health Equity Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - 7.6.9. Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in the College of Science
 - 7.6.10. Applied Remote Sensing and Geospatial Artificial Intelligence Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in the S. J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources
- 7.7. Approve: Proposal to Discontinue Degree Program
 - 7.7.1. Elementary Education General Studies Bachelor of Art and Bachelor of Science Degrees in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
- 7.8. Approve: Proposals to Offer Minors
 - 7.8.1. Air Traffic Control Minor in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
 - 7.8.2. Forensic Testimony Minor in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - 7.8.3. Data Literacy Minor in the College of Science
 - 7.8.4. Consumer Psychology Minor in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
- 7.9. Approve: Proposal for New Programs
 - 7.9.1. Ranch Economics and Management Bachelor of Science with Emphases in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
 - 7.9.2. Associate of Science Degree in Special Education in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
- 7.10. Approve: Department Restructure and/or Name Change

- 7.10.1. Change the Department Name from Sociology and Anthropology to Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- 7.10.2. Restructure the Data Science Master of Science and Jointly House It within Two Departments in the College of Science
- 7.10.3. Restructure the Masters of Natural Resources MNR in the S. J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources

8. Action Agenda

- 8.1. Ratify: (NEW) USU Policy 541: Free Expression and Assembly (Presenters: Vice President Mica McKinney)

Policy 541 is a newly established policy that integrates Federal and State law protections for free speech and assembly, aligning with recent Utah Board of Higher Education resolutions. This policy consolidates key concepts related to free speech at Utah State University (USU) into one comprehensive document, ensuring activities do not disrupt university operations.

The policy clearly delineates areas on campus into public forums, limited public forums, and restricted areas, establishing clear boundaries and expectations for expression activities. It unifies scattered free speech elements found in various other policies, providing a centralized reference for understanding USU's stance on free speech, its limits, and the process for filing complaints about violations or safety concerns.

Additionally, Policy 541 protects academic freedom, maintaining its significance within the faculty code and closely mirrors its language. This underscores the relationship between academic freedom and free speech, highlighting their importance in the same policy.

Motion:

Moved by Clark Whitworth and seconded by David Petersen. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passes.

- 8.2. Approve: Report of Investments (Presenters: Trustee Clark Whitworth, Vice President Dave Cowley)

Trustee Whitworth and Trustee Huntsman, who both serve on the investment committee, provided an overview of the current investment report. They emphasized the importance of understanding the content of the report and highlighted the existing policies that guide the university's investments.

The report included detailed information about the university's investments for December 2023 and January 2024, with a focus on the endowment and investment pools. Trustees noted that while their role is to ensure

adherence to investment policies, qualified professionals manage the specifics of the investments, ensuring that policies are followed and maximizing returns within the established guidelines.

Trustee Whitworth discussed the various funds managed by the university, including endowment funds and cash management operations. The investment committee primarily oversees the endowment pool, ensuring that donor-specified endowments, such as the prestigious Seely Hinckley Scholarship Fund, are properly managed.

The report also mentioned the management of bond proceeds, which are conservatively invested to ensure funds are available for designated projects. Overall, the Trustees expressed confidence in the investment committee's ability to maximize investment opportunities while adhering to policies and ensuring the university's financial stability.

Motion:

Moved by Kent K. Alder and seconded by John Y. Ferry. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passes.

8.2.1. December 2023

8.2.2. January 2024

9. Closed Session

Attendance

Trustees present:

Kent K. Alder

John Y. Ferry

Gina Gagon, Vice Chair

David H. Huntsman

Kacie Malouf

Heather Mason

Mica McKinney

David Petersen

Matthew Richey

Jacey Skinner, Chair

Tessa White

Clark Whitworth

University representatives present:

Elizabeth Cantwell

Kerri Davidson

Motion:

In accordance with section 52-4-204 of the Utah Code, the trustees go into a closed executive session for the sole purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of individuals, pending or reasonably imminent litigation, and discussing the potential deployment of security, personnel devices, or systems.

Motion moved by Gina Gagon and motion seconded by Kacie Malouf. Roll call vote was initiated. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the board went into a closed executive session.

Closed session adjourned and trustees returned to the regular meeting.

10. Information Agenda

- 10.1. (NEW) USU Policy 521: Providing Meaningful Communication with Persons with Limited English Proficiency
- 10.2. (NEW) USU Policy 542: Disclosure of University Records
- 10.3. (NEW) USU Policy 543: Trespass
- 10.4. Update: Career Academy of Utah

11. Upcoming: All Board Member Workshop for USU Board of Trustees and USU Foundation Board

Friday, June 21, 2024, 8:00am-12:00pm, Huntsman Corporation Headquarters, 500 Huntsman Way, Salt Lake City (breakfast and lunch provided)

12. Adjourn

Chair Skinner thanked all in attendance.

Motion:

Moved by Tessa White and seconded by David H. Huntsman. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Meeting was adjourned.