



USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Friday, June 20, 2025

9:15 AM-1:15 PM MDT

320 Aggie Blvd. Vernal, Utah or

via Zoom <https://usu-edu.zoom.us/j/83594248735?pwd=XmUz4faQM5KszHHEB5GjYV7kXAYZwC.1>

Attendance

Trustees Present:

Jacey Skinner, Chair

Gina Gagon, Vice Chair

Kent Alder

John Ferry

David Huntsman

Kacie Malouf (virtual)

Heather Mason (virtual)

Dave Petersen (virtual)

Brandon Sorensen

Tessa White

Clark Whitworth (virtual)

University Representatives Present:

Jeff Aird (virtual)

Tiffany Allison (virtual)

Lisa Berreau (virtual)

TJ Bliss

Janalyn Brown

Doug Bullock (virtual)

BreeAnn Butterfield

Stephen Campbell (virtual)

Mike Christiansen UBRI

Mark Chynoweth UBRI

Dave Cowely

Kerri Davidson (virtual)

Krystin Deschamps
(virtual)

Molly Ellender

Shana Geffeney UBRI

Crystal Giordano (virtual)

Charles Hanifin UBRI

Allen Hill (virtual)

Joseph Hunting

Tanis Jensen

JanaLee Johnson (virtual)

Jim LaMuth

David Law

Mica McKinney

Faith Nandkeshwar

John O'Neil

Kristian Olsen

Bob Peterson

Bill Plate (virtual)

John Robertson

Diana Sabau

Al Smith

Larry Smith

MaKenzie Stock

James Taylor

Matt White

Ken White

Logan Wilbur (virtual)

Devin Wiser

Additional Attendees:

Maycee Cox UBRI

Britany Lamb UBRI

Bekah Ward UBRI

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order

9:25 AM

Presenter: Chair Jacey Skinner

2. USU Uintah Basin Overview

9:26 AM

Presenter: Associate Vice President David Law

David Law provided an overview of the Uintah Basin Campus (see attached handouts) and shared updates on USU-Uintah Basin's (USU-UB) current projects focused on growth and learning. He discussed the vision for USU-UB, emphasizing their strong commitment to learning

and student success. Highlights included a focus on supporting students in completing their college education by fostering a strong sense of belonging and helping them discover their place within the college community.

3. Resolution of Commendation: Uintah Basin Research Internship (UBRI) (see attached resolution) 9:38 AM

Presenter: Chair Jacey Skinner

4. Committee Reports 9:44 AM

4.1. Honorary Degrees, Awards, and Recognition Committee (see attached report)

Presenter: Trustee Heather Mason

4.2. Executive Committee (see attached report)

Presenter: Chair Jacey Skinner

4.3. Research and Academic Approval Committee (see attached report)

Presenter: Trustee Kacie Malouf

4.4. Statewide Mission and Campus Oversight Committee (see attached report)

Presenter: Trustee Kent K. Alder

4.5. Student Health, Safety, and Well-Being Committee (see attached report)

Presenter: Trustee David H. Huntsman

4.6. Recruitment, Retention, Completion Committee (see attached report)

Presenter: Trustee Tessa White

5. President's Report 10:09 AM

Presenter: President Al Smith

President Smith thanked the hosts and attendees, highlighted the successful preschool tour, and announced USU's official exit from the Mountain West Conference and entry into the Pac-12 by July 2026.

He reported Aggie Athletics fundraising surpassed annual goals and provided updates on the university's strategic redesign amid broader challenges in higher education. Despite these headwinds, students, faculty, and researchers continue to make strong progress.

He discussed the HB 265 process as both a challenge and opportunity, with plans to reinvest in future technologies, health and well-being, and student access and success. President Smith also noted positive feedback from the Northwest Commission's accreditation visit and announced the formation of the presidential search committee.

Motion:

Motion moved by Vice Chair Gina Gagon that in accordance with 52-4-205 of the Utah Code that 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. Motion seconded by Trustee David Huntsman. Roll call vote was initiated by Chair Jacey Skinner and

taken by Secretary Janalyn Brown. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the meeting moved to a closed session which commenced at 10:24 am and concluded at 10:40 am.

6. CLOSED SESSION

10:24 AM

Attendance

Trustees Present:

Jacey Skinner, Chair

Gina Gagon, Vice Chair

David Petersen (virtual)

Clark Whitworth (virtual)

Kacie Malouf (virtual)

Heather Mason (virtual)

John Ferry

Brandon Sorensen

Tessa White

Kent Alder

David Huntsman

University Representatives Present:

Janalyn Brown

Dave Cowley

Mica McKinney

Al Smith

7. BREAK

10:40 AM

8. STRATEGIC AGENDA

8.1. Statewide Enterprise (see attached PowerPoint Presentation)

10:55 AM

Presenter: Senior Vice President Ken White

8.2. Athletics: House Settlement Updates

11:29 AM

Presenter: Vice President Diana Sabau

Diana Sabau shared Utah State is modernizing its Division 1 athletics without cutting staff or programs, as student-athletes continue to succeed academically. While some programs haven't yet brought in revenue, last year saw a balanced budget with a small surplus. A revenue council is in place, but there won't be major revenue sharing this year. The Blue A Collective remains active, though most contract requests are being denied. Sabau noted that joining the PAC-12 is just the beginning of a larger plan for the future of Aggie athletics.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

11:42 AM

9.1. Approve: 4.30.25 USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

9.2. Approve: 5.22.25 USU Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes

9.3. Approve: Tenure and Professor Rank for Christopher B. Fox

9.4. Approve: Policy 2100: Affirmative Action Retirement

9.5. Approve: Policy 2105: Free Expression and Assembly

9.6. Approve: Policy 2107: Political & Electoral Participation

9.7. Approve: Policy 3116: Sabbatical Leave

9.8. Approve: Policy 5200: Information Security and Appropriate Use

9.9. Approve: Centers

9.9.1. Center for Rural Economic Development and Emerging Technologies

9.10. Approve: Discontinuation

9.10.1. Mathematical Sciences – PhD – Statistics Specialization in the in the College of Science

9.11. Approve: Name Change and Restructure

9.11.1. Restructure the Automotive Technology Certificate of Completion to an Automotive Technology Technical Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

9.11.2. Change the Name and Restructure the Small Business Operations-Entrepreneurism Certificate of Completion to a Business Technical Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

9.11.3. Change the Name and Restructure the Diesel Technician Certificate of Completion to the Diesel Technology Technical Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

9.11.4. Change the Name and Restructure the General Technology Associate of Applied Science to the Technology and Design Associate of Applied Science in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

9.11.5. Restructure the Technology Systems Bachelor of Science in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

9.11.6. Restructure the Unmanned Aircraft Systems – Drones – Certificate of Completion to the Unmanned Aircraft Systems – Technical Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

9.11.7. Change the Name of the Educational Technology and Learning Sciences Master of Education to the Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences Master of Education in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

9.11.8. Change the Name of the Fitness Promotion Master of Fitness Promotion to the Applied Kinesiology Master of Applied Kinesiology in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

9.11.9. Change the Name of the Health Education and Promotion Bachelor of Science to the Public Health – Health Promotion Bachelor of Science in the Emma Eccle Jones College of Education and Human Services

9.11.10. Restructure the Master of Engineering in Biological Engineering in the College of Engineering

9.11.11. Change the Name of the Master of Data Analytics Management Information Systems to the Master of Data Analytics in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business

9.11.12. Restructure the Master of Data Analytics in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business

9.12. Approve: Emphases

9.12.1. Theatre Arts: Musical Theatre Bachelor of Fine Arts Emphasis in the Caine College of the Arts

9.12.2. Special Education: Visual Impairment Emphasis – Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

9.13. Approve: Programs

9.13.1. Natural Resource Economics Bachelor of Science in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

9.13.2. Planning and Design Technologies Bachelor of Science in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

9.13.3. Elementary Education Associate of Science in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

Motion:

Motion was made to approve all items on the consent agenda. Motion was moved by Trustee David Huntsman and motion was seconded by Trustee John Ferry. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

10. ACTION AGENDA

10.1. Accept: Utah State University Appropriated FY26 Budget (see attached PowerPoint Presentation) 11:44 AM

Presenter: Vice President Dave Cowley

Motion:

Motion was made to accept Utah State University Appropriated FY26 Budget. Motion was moved by Trustee John Ferry and seconded by Trustee Kent Alder. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

10.1.2. Approve: Utah State University Auxiliary Budgets (see attached PowerPoint Presentation)

Presenter: Vice President Dave Cowley

Motion:

Motion was made to approve Utah State University Auxiliary Budgets. Motion was moved by Trustee David Huntsman and seconded by Trustee Brandon Sorensen. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

10.2. Approve: Real Property Acquisition, Price, Utah (see attached PowerPoint Presentation) 12:30 PM

Presenter: Vice President Dave Cowley

Motion:

Motion was made to approve Real Property Acquisition, Price, Utah. Motion was moved by Trustee Dave Petersen and seconded by Trustee John Ferry. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

10.3. Ratify: USU Board of Trustees Secretary, Janalyn Brown

12:33 PM

Presenter: Chair Jacey Skinner

Motion:

Motion was made to ratify USU Board of Trustees Secretary, Janalyn Brown. Motion was moved by Trustee David Huntsman and seconded by Trustee Kent Alder. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

10.4. Ratify: 2025-2027 Trustee Chair and Vice Chair Election

12:34 PM

Presenter: Trustee Heather Mason

Motion:

Motion was made by Trustee Heather Mason that all members of the Board of Trustees have cast their votes via secret ballot and electronic ballots are now closed. Therefore, based on the results, she moved the Board ratify the election of Trustee Tessa White as Chair and Trustee Gina Gagon as Vice Chair as of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027. Motion seconded by Trustee Kent Alder. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

11. INFORMATION AGENDA

12:26 PM

11.1. Investment Report for February 2025

11.2. Investment Report for March 2025

11.3. Advancement Report for Summer 2025

11.4. Policy 2406: Hazing

11.5. Policy 3207: Wage & Salary Administration

12. Adjourn

12:39 PM

Motion:

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion moved by Trustee David Huntsman and motion seconded by Trustee Brandon Sorensen. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

13. Trustee Lunch with USU Leadership Teams