



# USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2025 8:30am-12:00pm

University Inn, Sonne Board Room, Logan UT  
and via Zoom

## Attendance

### Trustees Present:

Jacey Skinner, Chair  
Gina Gagon, Vice Chair (virtual)  
Kent K. Alder  
John Y. Ferry  
David H. Huntsman (virtual)  
David Petersen

Matthew Richey  
Kacie Malouf  
Heather Mason  
Tessa White (virtual)  
Clark Whitworth

### University representatives present:

Jodi Bailey (virtual)  
Lisa Berreau  
Janalyn Brown  
Elizabeth Cantwell  
Dave Cowley  
Kerri Davidson (virtual)  
Nancy Hanks  
Haley Klaassen  
Mica McKinney (virtual)  
Bill Plate  
Janet Anderson (virtual)

Larry Smith  
James Taylor (virtual)  
Ken White  
Matt White  
Devin Wiser  
Grant Cordon  
Crystal Giordano (virtual)  
Jane Irungu  
JanaLee Johnson  
Diana Sabau

### Additional attendees:

Cimeron Neugebauer  
Jared Gereau

Geoff Landward

1. Welcome and Call to Order (Presenters: Chair Jacey Skinner)

Chair Skinner welcomed all in attendance both in person and on Zoom.

### Motion:

Trustee Petersen moved 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, physical or mental health of individuals, pending or reasonably imminent litigation, and the possible sale of real property.

Motion seconded by Trustee Mason. Roll call vote was initiated by Janalyn Brown. Voting

was unanimous in the affirmative and the meeting moved to a closed session which commenced at 8:37am and concluded at 9:33am.

## **2. CLOSED SESSION**

### **Attendance:**

#### **Trustees present:**

Jacey Skinner (Chair)

Kent K. Alder

John Y. Ferry

Gina Gagon (virtual)

David H. Huntsman (virtual)

David Petersen

Matthew Richey

Kacie Malouf

Heather Mason

Tessa White (virtual)

Clark Whitworth

#### **University representatives present:**

Janalyn Brown

Elizabeth Cantwell

Kerri Davidson

Dave Cowley

Mica McKinney

## **3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **3.1. Executive Committee (Presenters: Chair Jacey Skinner)**

Chair Skinner shared a poll will be sent to all board members, for feedback on the March meeting date change and June meeting location. The committee reviewed USU Policy 1001 and determined to move off action agenda as faculty have requested more time for review.

### **3.2. Research and Academic Approval Committee (Presenters: Trustee Kacie Malouf)**

Trustee Malouf reviewed the attached report.

### **3.3. Student Health, Safety and Well-being Committee**

No report.

### **3.4. Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee (Presenters: Trustee David Petersen)**

Trustee Petersen reviewed the attached report.

### **3.5. Athletics Committee (Presenters: Trustee Clark Whitworth)**

Trustee Whitworth reviewed the attached report, highlighting the broad impact of athletics on campus and the local economy. He discussed USU's move to the PAC-12, noting budget differences among conference schools, and provided an

update on the athletics budget.

He announced an event in Farmington on January 23 at 6:00 p.m., hosted by VP Diana Sabau and Coach Bronco Mendenhall, and requested board input on invitees. A February luncheon is also planned to engage stakeholders across the Wasatch Front.

Trustee Whitworth noted that USU successfully retained its soccer coach despite outside interest and that improvements to the soccer field are underway. He mentioned future upgrades needed for the Spectrum and highlighted USU's current No. 25 basketball ranking, which is boosting publicity. He thanked VP Sabau for her efforts and emphasized that athletics-driven donations benefit the entire university.

3.6. Honorary Degrees, Awards and Recognition Committee (Presenters: Trustee Heather Mason)

Trustee Mason reported that finalists were selected in today's closed session and will be contacted within the next month. Chair Skinner thanked the committee for this year's process improvements.

3.7. Recruitment, Retention and Completion Committee (Presenters: Trustee Tessa White)

Trustee White discussed the committee's restructure to meet more frequently and explore topics in depth. The latest meeting focused on department overviews, retention rates, and student engagement. Engagement levels, which declined post-COVID, have now surpassed 2019 levels. The committee also reviewed survey data comparing USU to peer institutions and discussed strategies to enhance student engagement.

4. Student Resolution of Commendation (Presenters: Trustee Matthew Richey)

Trustee Richey read a resolution of commendation for student Andrew Hunting.

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

President Cantwell reviewed the attached report, emphasizing the importance of the upcoming legislative session.

Key highlights included:

- **Academic Enterprise** - Restructuring to better serve students, reforming general education, and developing programs in civic leadership and transferrable skills.

- **Strategic Enrollment** - Progress in enrollment management, with increased out-of-state applications through the Common App; efforts underway to improve conversion rates. Over 50% of out-of-state graduates stay in Utah.
- **Student Success** - Parent and Family Weekend attendance increased by 76%, reflecting strong interest in USU.
- **Athletics** - Appreciation for Bronco Mendenhall's commitment to USU; ticket sales up 12%, with ongoing efforts to boost event attendance.
- **Finance and Administrative Services** - NEHMA Art Research Center and Monument Valley Academic Center nearing completion. Veterinary Medicine building set for Fall 2025 interior work, with full completion in 2026. Gardner Learning Center in development.
- **Human Resource** - Launched R2A2 project to clarify roles, responsibilities, authority and accountability across USU.
- **Extension** - EDA grants supporting hybrid and online learning expansion in rural areas.
- **Statewide Enterprise** - 7,300 students enrolled, with increased commitment to serving Utah communities outside Logan.
- **Government and External Relations** - USU continues to host speakers and federal officials to engage students in career opportunities.
- **University Marketing and Communication (UMAC)** - Spring 2025 *Utah State Magazine* will highlight undergraduate research.
- **Research Enterprise** - recent workshop with INL through gateway
- **Advancement** - Fundraising efforts are ahead of goal, with strong internal and external support.

## 6. BREAK

## 7. STRATEGIC AGENDA

Chair Skinner explained the new model of having different USU stakeholders present to the board throughout the year.

### 7.1. Faculty Senate (Presenters: Faculty Senate President Grant Cardon)

Faculty Senate President Grant Cardon reviewed the attached presentation on the Faculty Senate's structure and function. He noted that Policy 1001, in compliance with HB 438 and SB 192, will modify certain Faculty Senate functions and the responsibilities of the Professional Responsibilities and Procedures Sub-Committee.

7.2. Research (Presenters: Vice President Lisa Berreau)

VP Berreau will consult her team on how the board can assist with promoting the April Horizons event and informing alumni. Chair Skinner thanked her for highlighting student work.

8. 2025 USU Legislative Requests (Presenters: Vice President Devin Wiser)

VP Devin outlined upcoming legislative session events and invited board members to attend if available.

USU has two main legislative requests, approved by the USHE board in Fall 2024:

1. **MAIDAC Addition to Animal Science Building** – \$28.5 million one-time request, plus \$286,200 for ongoing operations and maintenance. USU is the only university approved for a building request.
2. **Space & Defense Research Institute & Workforce Initiative** – \$11.2 million over three years to support workforce development and streamline security clearance for defense industry internships, aiding post-graduation hiring.

USU aims to leverage these funds for federal grants, taking a business development approach. While ambitious, these requests are well-positioned, particularly with strategic partnerships.

9. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 9.1. Approve: 11.8.24 USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
- 9.2. Approve: 11.18.24 USU Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes
- 9.3. Approve: 2025 Honorary Degree Recipients and Commencement Speaker
- 9.4. Approve: New Centers
  - 9.4.1. Center for Equine Assisted Services in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
  - 9.4.2. Center for Academic Belonging & Learning Excellence in the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President
- 9.5. Approve: Proposed Certificates
  - 9.5.1. Applied Animal Reproduction Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
  - 9.5.2. Beef Cattle Management Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

- 9.5.3. Biotechnology Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- 9.5.4. Dairy Cattle Management Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- 9.5.5. Foundations in Animal Science Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- 9.5.6. Humans and Animal-Assisted Interventions Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- 9.5.7. Humans and Animal-Assisted Interventions POST BACHELOR Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- 9.5.8. Sheep and Wool Production Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- 9.5.9. Livestock Extension Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- 9.5.10. Food Production Management Academic Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- 9.5.11. Manufacturing and Design Technology Academic Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- 9.5.12. Product Development Academic Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- 9.5.13. Audio Technology Certificate in the Caine College of the Arts
- 9.6. Approve: Proposed Name Change
  - 9.6.1. Change the Name of the POST BACHELOR Certificate from Certificate of Advanced Practice in Dietetics to Certificate of Applied Practice in Dietetics
- 9.7. Approve: Proposed Restructures
  - 9.7.1. Restructure and Change the Name of the Additive Manufacturing Institutional Certificate of Proficiency to Additive and Advanced Manufacturing Process Academic Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
  - 9.7.2. Restructure the Second Language Teaching-MSLT to Second Language Teaching MS in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- 9.8. Review and Accept: Investment Reports
  - 9.8.1. Report of Investments for July 2024

- 9.8.2. Report of Investments for August 2024
- 9.8.3. Report of Investments for September 2024
- 9.8.4. Report of Investments for October 2024
- 9.9. Recommend: 3-year Reappointment to Space Dynamics Board of Directors
  - 9.9.1. Rich McKeown
  - 9.9.2. Robert Lightfoot
- 9.10. Recommend: 3-year New Appointment to Space Dynamics Board of Directors
  - 9.10.1. David Jones
  - 9.10.2. Natalie Gochnour

**Motion:**

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

**10. ACTION AGENDA**

- 10.1. Review and Accept: External Audit Reports Year End 30 June 2024 (Presenters: Vice President Dave Cowley, Trustee David Petersen)  
  
Reports have been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Audit, Risk and Compliance (ARC) Committee.

**Motion:**

Motion was made to accept all External Audit Reports. Motion moved by Trustee Alder and motion seconded by Trustee Whitworth. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

- 10.2. Approve: Real Property Disposition: 350 North 500 West, Vernal, Utah (Presenters: Vice President Dave Cowley)  
  
VP Dave Cowley presented the attached \$920,000 proposal, which will be competitively bid. Its value has increased significantly since the last review five years ago. The executive committee recommended full board approval.

**Motion:**

Motion was made to approve the real property disposition. Motion moved by Trustee Petersen and motion seconded by Trustee Mason. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

- 10.3. Approve: Carbon County Regional Airport Hangar Lease (Presenters: Vice President Dave Cowley)

VP Dave Cowley reviewed the attached proposal. The executive committee recommended full board approval.

**Motion:**

Motion was made to approve the Carbon County hangar lease. Motion moved by Trustee Whitworth and motion seconded by Trustee Richey. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed. Vice Chair Gina Gagon abstained from voting.

- 10.4. Approve: USU Policy 517: Investment Policy (Presenters: Vice President Dave Cowley)

VP Dave Cowley reviewed attached policy - usually 500 level policies are informational only, but the investment policy is required to be approved by USU Board and USHE.

**Motion:**

Motion was made to approve USU Policy 517. Motion moved by Trustee Ferry and motion seconded by Trustee Malouf. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

- 10.5. Approve: USU Policy 1001: University Policy System (Presenters: USU Representatives Crystal Giordano, Amy Shewan)

**Motion:**

Motion was made to table the approval of Policy 1001. Motion moved by Trustee Mason and motion seconded by Trustee Alder. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and Policy 1001 was tabled.

**11. INFORMATION AGENDA**

- 11.1. USU 2024 Annual Financial Report  
11.2. USU Advancement Report - Winter 2024


**12. ADJOURN**

**Motion:**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion moved by Trustee Whitworth and motion seconded by Trustee Ferry. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacey Skinner, Chair

3/17/2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janalyn Brown, Secretary  
(minutes taken by Janalyn Brown)

