



# DRAFT MINUTES

## SENATE EDUCATION CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE

Friday, August 15, 2025 | 12:00 p.m. | 120 Senate Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Ann Millner, Chair  
Sen. Heidi Balderree  
Sen. Luz Escamilla  
Sen. John D. Johnson  
Sen. Michael K. McKell

Sen. Kathleen A. Riebe

Sen. Chris H. Wilson

**Staff Present:**

Micah Ann Wixom, Policy Analyst  
Amy Hawkes, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

Chair Millner called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

### 1. Committee Business

**MOTION:** Sen. Balderree moved to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2025, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6

Sen. H. Balderree  
Sen. L. Escamilla  
Sen. M. McKell  
Sen. A. Millner  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Sen. J. Johnson

### 2. Review the Proposed Appointment of Karen Cronin as a member of the Bridgerland Technical College Board of Trustees

Karen Cronin introduced herself, discussed her background and qualifications, and responded to questions from the committee.

**MOTION:** Sen. Riebe moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the appointment of Karen Cronin as a member of the Bridgerland Technical College Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yeas - 7

Sen. H. Balderree  
Sen. L. Escamilla  
Sen. J. Johnson  
Sen. M. McKell  
Sen. A. Millner  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 0

### 3. Review the Proposed Appointment of Jodi Hart as a member of the Utah Board of Higher Education

Jodi Hart introduced herself, discussed her background and qualifications, and responded to questions from the committee.

**MOTION:** Sen. McKell moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the appointment of Jodi Hart as a member of the Utah Board of Higher Education. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yeas - 7Nays - 0Absent - 0

Sen. H. Balderree  
Sen. L. Escamilla  
Sen. J. Johnson  
Sen. M. McKell  
Sen. A. Millner  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Sen. C. Wilson

#### **4. Review the Proposed Appointment of Jeremy Hafen as a member of the Utah Board of Higher Education**

Jeremy Hafen introduced himself, discussed his background and qualifications, and responded to questions from the committee.

**MOTION:** Sen. Riebe moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the appointment of Jeremy Hafen as a member of the Utah Board of Higher Education. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yeas - 7Nays - 0Absent - 0

Sen. H. Balderree  
Sen. L. Escamilla  
Sen. J. Johnson  
Sen. M. McKell  
Sen. A. Millner  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Sen. C. Wilson

#### **5. Review the Proposed Reappointment of Danny Ipson as a member of the Utah Board of Higher Education**

Danny Ipson introduced himself, discussed his background and qualifications, and responded to questions from the committee.

**MOTION:** Sen. Balderree moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the reappointment of Danny Ipson as a member of the Utah Board of Higher Education. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yeas - 7Nays - 0Absent - 0

Sen. H. Balderree  
Sen. L. Escamilla  
Sen. J. Johnson  
Sen. M. McKell  
Sen. A. Millner  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Sen. C. Wilson

#### **6. Review the Proposed Appointment of Justin Harding as a member of the Southern Utah University Board of Trustees**

Justin Harding introduced himself, discussed his background and qualifications, and responded to questions from the committee.

**MOTION:** Sen. Balderree moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the appointment of Justin Harding as a member of the Southern Utah University Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yeas - 7Nays - 0Absent - 0

Sen. H. Balderree  
Sen. L. Escamilla  
Sen. J. Johnson  
Sen. M. McKell  
Sen. A. Millner  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Sen. C. Wilson

## 7. Review the Proposed Appointment of Kathi Garff as a member of the University of Utah Board of Trustees

Kathi Garff introduced herself, discussed her background and qualifications, and responded to questions from the committee.

Rep. Melissa Ballard provided public comment in favor of the nomination.

**MOTION:** Sen. Riebe moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the appointment of Kathi Garff as a member of the University of Utah Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yeas - 7Nays - 0Absent - 0

Sen. H. Balderree  
Sen. L. Escamilla  
Sen. J. Johnson  
Sen. M. McKell  
Sen. A. Millner  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Sen. C. Wilson

## 8. Adjourn

**MOTION:** Sen. McKell moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yeas - 7Nays - 0Absent - 0

Sen. H. Balderree  
Sen. L. Escamilla  
Sen. J. Johnson  
Sen. M. McKell  
Sen. A. Millner  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Sen. C. Wilson

Chair Millner adjourned the meeting at 1:49 p.m.