

**Trustees Present:** Jodi Hart Wilson, Eric Schmutz, Michael Wankier, Caytee Wankier, Landon Lee, and Sydney Nakken

**Trustees Online:** Beverly Burgess and Derral Eves

**Trustees Excused:** Marilee Eyre

**Others Present:** Mindy Benson, Stuart Jones, Mary Pearson, Daneka Souberbielle, Shane Flanigan, Jared Tippets, Tiger Funk, James Sage, Dialea Adams, Tessa Anderson, Kevin Price, Bill Heyborne, Ken Hall, Chris Monson, Jake Johnson, Lucia Maloy, Camille Thomas, Ken Schmutz, and Matt Zufelt

**Online Attendees:** Aimee Uchman, Hunter Torgersen, Julie Ellis, Pam Powell, Ann Oberhelman, John Fonseca, Heather Callison, Marci May, Kelly Goonan, Mike Humes, Amber Lopez, Mary Jo Anderson, Camaree Staheli, Cari Lawes, Katie Gomez, David McGuire, Sarah Hokanson, Wyatt Robison, Brad Kinross, Katya Konkole, Josh Foremaster, Brandon Ragan, Brian Swanson, Candice Hillegar, Michelle Anderson, Ben Joslin, Pat Palmer, Allison Bulloch, Kendall Wilkey, Gina Marston, and Lisa Swanson

**Welcome and Call to Order by Chair Jodi Hart Wilson**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM.

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**ACTION ITEMS**

**Approval of Minutes: April 24, 2025 [Tab A](#)**

A motion to approve the minutes of April 24, 2025, was made by Trustee Michael Wankier, second by Trustee Caytee Wankier. The motion passed unanimously.

**Policy 5.21 - Procedures for Hiring Staff Employees [Tab B](#)**

Vice President Mary Pearson announced updates to Policy 5.21 to clarify the University's staff hiring procedures. Key changes include:

- Clearer Processes: Improved clarity around recruitment, screening, interviewing, and selecting candidates to better align with University needs.

- Internal Applicants: Revised practices for current or former University employees applying internally, with clearer guidelines and less ambiguous language
- Committee Composition: Hiring committees are no longer required to include a female member specifically but must consist of three qualified members
- Internal Promotions: Positions can now be filled through internal promotions without the need to post the job externally
- Posting Timelines: The required duration for posting job openings has been shortened to speed up the hiring process

These updates aim to streamline hiring, support internal career advancement, and ensure processes are equitable and efficient.

See vote below under Policy 7.6 University Property.

#### **Policy 5.53 – University Records Retention and Management** [Tab C](#)

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Vice President Mary Pearson announced that the newly revised policy is a complete rewrite and replacement of Policy 5.53 – University Archives and Records Policy, undertaken to enhance compliance and improve operational efficiency. The policy underwent an extensive review process lasting over a year.

The updated policy provides a comprehensive overview of University Records and their proper management. It formalizes the relationship between Special Collections and University Archives for the storage and oversight of records and establishes clear records management guidelines applicable to all SUU records.

Additionally, the policy creates the University Records Management Committee, addresses key compliance obligations, and introduces the foundation for a robust privacy program.

See vote below under Policy 7.6 University Property.

#### **Policy 5.63 – Restrictions on Faculty/Staff Relationships with Subordinate Employees and Students** [Tab D](#)

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Vice President Mary Pearson shared an update to the university's policy to clarify and restrict amorous relationships between employees and their subordinate employees or students. The policy now includes specific definitions and restrictions that align with the Utah Governmental Immunity Act and USHE Policy R842 (Utah System of Higher Education)

This update is intended to establish clear boundaries and protect both individuals and the institution from conflicts of interest or power imbalance concerns.

See vote below under Policy 7.6 University Property.

### **Policy 7.6 – University Property** [Tab E](#)

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Vice President Mary Pearson reported that Policy 7.6 – University Property has been updated to enhance accountability for assets owned and used by the University. The revised policy also includes updated procedures for the disposal of property and outlines applicable guidelines that allow employees to directly purchase personal electronic devices through the Surplus Property Procedure Guide.

A motion to approve the following policies as presented was made by Trustee Michael Wankier and seconded by Trustee Sydney Nakken:

- **Policy 5.21** – Procedures for Hiring New Staff Employees
- **Policy 5.53** – University Records Retention and Management
- **Policy 5.63** – Restrictions on Faculty/Staff Relationships with Subordinate Employees and Students
- **Policy 7.6** – University Property

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Policy 5.67 Clery Act** [Tab F](#)

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Vice President Tiger Funk shared that the recommended updates to Policy 5.67 (Clery Act) are intended to clarify the definition, prevention strategies, and required reporting procedures in compliance with the *Stop Campus Hazing Act*, as mandated by federal law.

A motion to approve the revised Policy 5.67 Clery Act as presented was made by Trustee Caytee Wankier and seconded by Trustee Eric Schmutz. The motion passed unanimously.

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### **Proposed College Name Change for Walter Maxwell Gibson College of Natural Sciences and College of Engineering and Computational Sciences**

Associate Provost James Sage introduced Dean Bill Heyborne to present a proposed name change for the Walter Maxwell Gibson College of Natural Sciences and the College of Engineering and Computational Sciences. The new name reflects the integration of

disciplines within these colleges and aligns with the departments that will now be housed under a single academic college.

In collaboration with the Gibson family, the college will be renamed: *Walter Maxwell Gibson College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (College of STEM)*.

This renaming consolidates the academic areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics under one cohesive identity. Additionally, the STEM Center will now be embedded within this newly named college. The Gibson family will also support research activities through a dedicated scholarship fund.

A motion to approve the new name, Walter Maxwell Gibson College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—College of STEM, was made by Trustee Sydney Nakken and seconded by Trustee Eric Schmutz. The motion passed unanimously.

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## **CONSENT ITEMS**

### **Investment Report: April 2025**

Vice President Mary Pearson reviewed the April 30, 2025 investment report and drew attention to page four, highlighting Southern Utah University's strong financial performance. Notably, SUU has achieved nearly a \$6 million increase in investment income. Additionally, the university has secured \$1.9 million in new revenue and in-kind contributions.

This success reflects the outstanding performance and strategic guidance of our investment committee, whose efforts continue to strengthen SUU's financial position.

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### **Tenure Appointment-Phil Roche, Director of Gerald R. Sherratt Library**

Associate Provost James Sage announced the tenure appointment of Phil Roche as the new Director of the Gerald R. Sherratt Library. Phil will officially begin his role on July 1, 2025.

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### **Early Retirement-Rita Osborn**

Vice President Daneka Souberbielle has shared that Rita Osborn has submitted her application for early retirement, effective August 31, 2025.

Rita has dedicated 27 years of service to Southern Utah University, during which she built and led the highly successful Utah Center for Rural Health. Her work has made a lasting impact on rural healthcare access and education in the state of Utah.

We are grateful for her many years of commitment and leadership and wish her all the best in this exciting new chapter. Congratulations, Rita!

A motion to approve all consent items as presented—including the April 30, 2025 Investment Report, the Tenure Appointment of Phil Roche, and the Early Retirement of Rita Osborn—was made by Trustee Michael Wankier and seconded by Trustee Caytee Wankier. The motion passed unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Board Report—College of HSS**

Trustee Chair, Jodi Hart Wilson highlighted the following about the College of HSS.

- HSS hosted 10 study abroad trips including Germany, Spain, Portugal, France, Japan and Costa Rica. Over 100 students were involved in these life-changing experiences
- The Psy.D program continues to thrive and grow, it is in its fourth year and all 10 students in the cohort program are intact and expecting to be graduating soon
- The American Psychology Association is anticipating visiting our campus in the next few months and receive their blessing of accreditation
- University valedictorian Kimmie Winward was from HSS this year. She is a very impressive graduate
- Business Social Plan lab has been approved
- AI Literacy and Logic certification is forthcoming

### **2025-26 Aviation Course Fees Follow-up**

Dean Ken Hall, of the Dixie L. Leavitt School of Business, provided an update on the proposed Aviation course fees that were presented at the last trustees meeting. The fixed-wing fee proposal was reduced from 19% to 8.8%. We appreciate the effort made by Dean Hall in revising these fees.

### **SUU Strategic Plan Updates**

Associate Provost James Sage provided an informational update on the progress of our strategic plan. Chair Jodi Hart Wilson emphasized that our strength is tied to the effectiveness of the plan itself. She highlighted the matrix as a valuable tool for guiding our efforts and measuring growth. The Strategic Plan is accessible online at any time and is consistently updated to reflect current progress.

## REPORTS

### Faculty Senate Report

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Chris Monson reported for the faculty senate:

- Shout out to Scott and his work as the faculty senate president
- HB265 cuts were much better than anticipated, but it did affect our faculty
- Summer classes are a bit smaller than anticipated, but going well
- Faculty continue to focus on graduation, retention and student growth

### Staff Association Report

Camille Thomas reported on behalf of Matt McKenzie who was excused due to a family emergency. Camille shared the following for the staff association:

- Thanks for supporting and including staff association as part of the trustees conversation
- June 25 is the date for the new board orientation
- Closing social was a great event that both Chair Jodi Hart Wilson & Vice Chair Eric Schmutz attended, Matt apologized for not recognizing them at the event

### Student Association Report

Landon Lee reported for the student association:

- ULA conference attended a few weeks ago where he made strong connections with other university student body presidents
- November 8 will be the student service day for all universities in Utah
- STIL retreat was held this past weekend and was successful

### President's Report

President Mindy Benson shared:

- Commencement celebration was fantastic—Miles did a great job representing alumni. Memories were made!
- The HB265 Proposal presented to the Board of Higher Education was considered a bulletproof presentation; the internship placement program drew interest from USHE. SUU plans to review all programs annually
- Impact Study released on June 25 from the Kem Gardner Policy Institute conducted a five counties study and shared the economic contribution of Southern Utah University to our southwest region
- Utah Summer Games opening ceremony went well — Jon Oglesby will report at the August trustee meeting. This year we had 600 special olympics athletes participate

- Utah Shakespeare Festival opens in two weeks; tickets sales are going well and anticipate an exciting season
- Utah Valley University announced that they are leaving the WAC. This will affect our conference affiliation since the membership is down to five schools and seven are needed to maintain the conference. SUU will be working on that
- VP Jones reported the summer online enrollment numbers are up 507. Deposits for this fall up 2.5 % for in-state students and out-of-state students 2.6%. We are down 26% for transfer students which is a very tough market. International student enrollment is up in the air and it is on hold; we currently have 1,000 international students on campus who are waiting to see how things work out at the federal level
- VP Jared Tippets reported that we are down slightly in continuing students, up 20 residents, concurrent students and continuing education students are up slightly; 12 weeks until fall semester and we can measure any growth in student enrollment
- James Sage acknowledged Shauna's leadership and countless hours to guide academic affairs
- We will begin the Provost search this fall and plan to have the new provost here by spring or no later than July 1, 2026
- VP Daneka Souberbielle was presented a Carrie Treholm bowl in appreciation for her service to SUU. President Benson thanked her for the impact she has had at SUU
- Recognized Trustee Michael Wankier and Trustee Chair Jodi Hart Wilson for the past eight years of service they have both given to our campus

### **MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED MEETING**

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A motion was made by Trustee Michael Wankier, seconded by Trustee Landon Lee to go into closed session. Vote unanimous. Time: 11:08 AM

### **MOTION TO REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

At 12:10 PM, a motion was made by Trustee Sydney Nakken to reopen the public meeting, second by Trustee Landon Lee. The vote was unanimous.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Beverly Burgess, second by Trustee Michael Wankier. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 PM

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Trustees Minutes approved: PENDING approval at August 25, 2025

Signed: Dialea S. Adams