



USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 17, 2025, at 8:30 AM - 12:15 PM
University Inn, Logan, Utah, Sonne Board Room or
via Zoom: [https://usu-](https://usu-edu.zoom.us/j/83585275578?pwd=QX7GI5nWoDVsgWATBmTOKLZDZPAM62.1)

[edu.zoom.us/j/83585275578?pwd=QX7GI5nWoDVsgWATBmTOKLZDZPAM62.1](https://usu-edu.zoom.us/j/83585275578?pwd=QX7GI5nWoDVsgWATBmTOKLZDZPAM62.1)

Attendance

Trustees Present:

Jacey Skinner, Chair
Gina Gagon, Vice Chair
(virtual)
Clark Whitworth

David Petersen (virtual)
Heather Mason (virtual)
John Y. Ferry
Kacie Malouf

Kent K. Alder
Matthew Richey
Tessa White

University Representatives Present:

Al Smith
Amy Shewan (virtual)
Bill Plate
Crissy Downs-Cisneros
Crystal Giordano (virtual)
David Cowley
Devin Wiser
Diana Sabau
Doug Bullock (virtual)
Elizabeth Cantwell

Eric Hawley
Grant Cardon (virtual)
Janalyn Brown
Janet Anderson (virtual)
Jeff Aird
Jodi Bailey (virtual)
Joe Ward
John O'Neil
Katie Jo North
Ken White

Kerri Davidson
Krystin Deschamps
Larry Smith
Lisa Berreau
MaKenzie Christensen
Matt White
Mica McKinney
Nancy Hanks
Patty MacSparran (virtual)
Stephen Campbell

Additional Attendees:

Geoff Landward
Jared Gereau
Kerry Bringhurst
Tom Williams

Sydney Lyman
Brooklyn Ward
Brandon Sorensen
Dallin Wilson

Jade Velazquez
Ashlyn Smith
Isabelle Santini-Haddock
Paige Blair

1. Welcome and Call to Order

8:39 AM

Presenter: Chair Jacey Skinner

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

2. Resolution of Appreciation - Elizabeth R. Cantwell

8:40 AM

Presenter: Chair Jacey Skinner (*see attached resolution*)

Chair Skinner read the resolution to honor President Cantwell.

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 John Ferry. 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 8:47 am and concluded at 10:42 am.

3. CLOSED SESSION

8:47 AM

Attendance

Trustees Present:

Jacey Skinner, Chair

Gina Gagon (virtual)

Clark Whitworth

David Peterson (virtual)

Heather Mason (virtual)

John Y. Ferry

Kacie Malouf

Kent K. Alder

Matthew Richey

Tessa White

University Representatives Present:

Al Smith

Dave Cowley

Janalyn Brown

Kerri Davidson

Mica McKinney

4. Committee Reports

10:42 AM

4.1. Audit, Risk, and Compliance

Presenter: Trustee David Petersen reviewed the attached report

4.2. Research and Academic Approval

Presenter: Trustee Kacie Malouf reviewed the attached report

4.3. External and Strategic Partnerships

Presenter: Trustee John Ferry reviewed the attached report

4.4. Statewide Mission and Campus Oversight

Presenter: Trustee Kent Alder reviewed the attached report

5. Utah Public Radio (UPR) Presentation

10:48 AM

Presenters: Kerri Bringhurst, Tom Williams (*see attached presentation*)

Kerri and Tom discussed the presentation and highlighted how UPR, in partnership with USU, serves Utah communities. Dean Joe Ward emphasized UPR as a key strategic asset in building the university's public brand.

6. USUSA Presentation

11:04 AM

Presenter: Trustee/USUSA President Matthew Richey (*see attached presentation*)

Trustee Richey introduced the USUSA Logan Executive Council, provided an overview of the presentation and explained the structure of USUSA and its role in representing students. Each member of the executive council then shared details about their specific areas of responsibility.

7. Student Resolution of Commendation Dallin Wilson

11:21 AM

Presenter: Trustee Matthew Richey (*see attached resolution*)

8. BREAK (bypassed)

9. President's Report

11:25 AM

Presenter: Interim President Al Smith (*see attached report*)

Interim President Smith presented the attached President's Report, highlighting key topics such as discussions from the legislative session, the transition to the PAC-12 Conference, and various student

events. He also touched on recent highlights, including the Mountain West Tournament and the Founder's Day Event. Additionally, he addressed the impact of budget cuts and reallocations, emphasizing the need for intensified efforts in the coming months. President Smith stressed the importance of people in making the institution great and ensuring a continued focus on this priority. He also discussed the future of research funding, the importance of fostering innovation at USU, and acknowledged the associated costs.

When asked, VP Berreau noted a gradual decline in research funding, particularly due to the loss of new federal awards and agency staffing reductions.

President Smith emphasized a deliberate approach to reallocating resources, including permanent cuts, a step-down program, and workload redistribution. Geoff Landward (USHE) outlined plans for institutional partnerships to maximize system-wide efficiency and support students. Trustees expressed the need for strategic focus in academic offerings, with President Smith reaffirming support for general education reform. USU's statewide presence positions it for significant collaboration within the system

10. Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness Report & NWCCU Accreditation Site Visit **11:48 AM**

Presenter: Executive Director Jeff Aird (see attached presentation)

Jeff Aird provided an update on the accreditation on the April 14-16 site visit.

11. STRATEGIC AGENDA

11.1. Strategy/Operational Modernization **12:03 PM**

Presenters: VP Kerri Davidson, VP John O'Neil, CIO Eric Hawley, AVP Crissy Downs-Cisneros (*see attached presentation*)

The presentation covered several key topics, including the availability of the draft strategic plan on the website, the upcoming launch of the pilot Business Services system, and updates on the Banner system switching to Workday.

11.2. Legislative Updates **12:44 PM**

Presenter: VP Devin Wiser

Budget: The \$3.5 million for the MATHAI building was not fully funded but USU will plan to return next year to secure the remaining funds.

USU Extension: \$225,000 allocated for participation in the IC.

Reinvestment Bill: The bill will distinguish between last year's budget cuts and current reallocations.

President Hiring Process Changes: The new process will maintain privacy, with only the final candidate's name being released by the Board of Higher Education.

Privacy Protection for Sex-Specific Areas: Housing areas will now be designated based on sex assigned at birth, not self-identification. There will be both sex-designated and gender-inclusive housing options.

Property Development: Each university will be allowed to develop one property to enhance opportunities.

Residency and Tuition: Service members, veterans, Department of Defense employees, and their children will qualify for in-state residency status when applying to universities in Utah.

12. CONSENT AGENDA **1:10 PM**

12.1. Approve: 1.10.25 USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

- 12.2.** Approve: 2.10.25 USU Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes
- 12.3.** Approve: USU Policy 301: Employee Position Types
- 12.4.** Approve: USU Policy 368: Phased Retirement
- 12.5.** Approve: 2025-2026 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Schedule
- 12.6.** Approve: Board Member Reappointments to USU Space Dynamics Lab Board of Directors
 - 12.6.1.** Ms. Kathryn G. Tobey
 - 12.6.2.** Ms. Lesa B. Roe
 - 12.6.3.** Lieutenant General John F. Thompson
- 12.7.** Review and Accept: November 2024 Report of Investment
- 12.8.** Review and Accept: December 2024 Report of Investment
- 12.9.** Approve: Proposed Certificates
 - 12.9.1.** Survey Methods Post Master's Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - 12.9.2.** Survey Methods Post-Bachelor's Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - 12.9.3.** AI and Writing Academic Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - 12.9.4.** Police Officer Standards Training Academy Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - 12.9.5.** Aviation Education Post-Bachelors Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
 - 12.9.6.** Health Education Teaching Academic Certificate in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
 - 12.9.7.** Social Determinants of Crime Academic Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - 12.9.8.** Airport Management Post-Bachelor's Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
 - 12.9.9.** Juvenile Justice Academic Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - 12.9.10.** Forensic Specialist and Crime Scene Investigation Academic Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - 12.9.11.** Corrections Leadership Development Academic Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - 12.9.12.** Veterinary Assisting Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
 - 12.9.13.** Patternmaking Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
 - 12.9.14.** Cybersecurity Academic Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
 - 12.9.15.** Airframe Maintenance Technical Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
 - 12.9.16.** Aviation Management Post-Bachelor's Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
 - 12.9.17.** Powerplant Maintenance Technical Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
 - 12.9.18.** AI Ethics Academic Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business

12.9.19. Aviation Safety Management Post-Bachelor's Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

12.9.20. Data Modeling Education Post-Bachelor's Certificate in the College of Science

12.9.21. School Resource Officers Academic Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

12.9.22. Peace Officers and Policing Academic Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

12.9.23. Courtroom Assistance Academic Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

12.9.24. Corrections Academic Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

12.9.25. Intercultural Communication Competence Academic Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

12.9.26. Information and Computer Technology Academic Certificate in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

12.9.27. Environmental Geosciences Institutional Certificate of Proficiency in the College of Science

12.10. Proposed Restructures and Name Changes

12.10.1. Change the name and restructure the Physical Education Coaching Minor to Physical Education Teaching Minor in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

12.10.2. Restructure the Geology Applied Environmental Geoscience Emphasis BA, BS to Environmental Geoscience BA, BS

12.10.3. Restructure the Heavy Equipment Operator Certificate of Proficiency to a Heavy Equipment Operator Technical Certificate

12.10.4. Restructure and change the name of the Commercial Driver's License Certificate of Proficiency to Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class A Certificate

12.10.5. Change the name and restructure the IT Support and Web Development Certificate of Completion to Information Technology Technical Certificate

12.10.6. Restructure Social Analytics Certificate of Proficiency to Social Analytics Certificate in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

12.10.7. Restructure the IT Support and Web Development Certificate of Completion to Networking and Cybersecurity Technical Certificate

12.10.8. Change the name and restructure the Computer Numerical Control Machinist Certificate of Completion to Machining Technology Technical Certificate

12.10.9. Change the name and restructure the Welding Certificate of Completion and the Welding Certificate of Proficiency to Welding Technology Technical Certificate

12.10.10. Change the name of the Bio veterinary Science Minor to Veterinary Science Minor

12.10.11. Change the name of the Agricultural Production and Automated Processing Technology Emphasis in General Technology Associate of Science to Agricultural Production and Automated Processing Technology Associate of Applied Science

12.10.12. Change the Name of the Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education to Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

12.10.13. Change the Name & Create Three New Specializations of the Master of Aviation Science

Three new specializations of the Master of Aviation Science: Safety Specialization to Master of Aviation Science: Safety Management Specialization /Aviation Management Specialization/ Airport Management Specialization/ Aviation Education Specialization

12.11. Approve: Proposed Minors

12.11.1. Health Education Teaching Minor in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

12.11.2. Race, Society, Environment Minor in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

12.12. Approve: Proposed New Programs

12.12.1. Human Development and Family Studies Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy PhD in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

12.12.2. Master of Science in Natural Resource Economics in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

12.12.3. Bachelor of Arts in Deaf Education in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

12.12.4. Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

12.12.5. Freshwater and Marine Ecology Baccalaureate Degree in the S.J. & Jessie Quinney College of Natural Resources proposes offering a Freshwater and Marine Ecology Baccalaureate Degree

12.12.6. Artificial Intelligence Engineering Bachelor of Science in the College of Engineering

12.13. Approve: Proposed Program Suspensions and Discontinuations

12.13.1. Suspend the Human Development and Family Studies Adolescence and Youth Specialization Master of Science in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

12.13.2. Suspend the Human Development and Family Studies Adult Development and Aging Specialization Master of Science in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

12.13.3. Suspend the Human Development and Family Studies Infancy and Childhood Specialization Master of Science in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

12.13.4. Suspend the Human Development and Family Studies Marriage and Family Relationships Specialization Master of Science in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services

12.13.5. Discontinue the Political Science Conflict and Cooperation Specialization Master of Arts in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

12.13.6. Discontinue the Political Science Conflict and Cooperation Specialization Master of Science in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

12.13.7. Discontinue the Political Science Public Science Public Policy Specialization Master of Arts in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

12.13.8. Discontinue the Political Science Public Science Public Policy Specialization Master of Science in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Motion:

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

13. ACTION AGENDA**13.1. Review and Approve: USU Policy 1001: University Policy System****1:17 PM**

Presenter: SVP Mica McKinney

SVP McKinney provided a brief overview of Policy 1001, outlining the changes that were made. She highlighted the introduction of a new policy review process, in which each policy will be reviewed every 1, 3, or 5 years.

Motion:

Motion was made to approve USU Policy 1001: University Policy System. Motion was moved by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Alder. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

13.2. Approve: Proposal for Tuition Rate Increase**12:51 PM**

Presenter: Interim President Al Smith (*see attached slides*)

President Smith presented the attached slides, outlining a 2.68% increase in tuition for both the Logan and Statewide Campuses, which will remain below the USHE threshold. According to USUSA President and Trustee Matt Richey, students have been involved in the decision-making process and agree with the increase.

Motion:

Motion was made to increase tuition rates for Logan and Statewide Campuses. Motion was moved by Trustee Alder and seconded by Trustee Whitworth. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

13.3. Approve: Proposal to Modify Student Fees**12:58 PM**

Presenter: Interim President Al Smith (*see attached slides*)

<https://www.usu.edu/student-affairs/student-fees>

President Smith and Trustee Richey presented the slides, proposing a 1.99% increase in student fees for the Logan campus, with no increase for the statewide campuses.

Motion:

Motion was made to increase student fees for the Logan Campus. Motion was moved by Trustee Richey and seconded by Trustee Malouf. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

13.4. Approve: Real Property Acquisition: Logan, Utah**1:21 PM**

Presenter: VP Dave Cowley

Motion:

Motion was made to approve Real Property Acquisition (see attached map): Logan, Utah. Motion was moved by Trustee Ferry and seconded by Trustee Malouf. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

13.5. Review and Accept: External Audit Reports**1:24 PM**

Presenter: Trustee David Petersen

Motion:

Motion was made to review and accept external audit reports. Motion was moved by Trustee Alder and motion was seconded by Trustee Whitworth. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

13.6. Approve: Authorization to Act in Capacity of the Vice President for Finance

1:26 PM

Administrative Services and Public Treasurer

Presenter: VP Dave Cowley

Motion:

Motion was made to approve authorization to act in capacity of the Vice President for Finance Administrative Services and Public Treasurer. Motion was moved by Trustee Richey and motion was seconded by Trustee White. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

14. INFORMATION AGENDA

1:29 PM

14.1. Upcoming Dates:

Board Meetings:

4/4/25: Promotion and Tenure Only - Zoom

4/30/25: Full Board Meeting, Logan Campus

6/20/25: Full Board Meeting, Uintah Basin Campus

Events:

3/25/25: President's Forum on Conflict

4/17/25: Southwest Commencement

4/18/25: Brigham City Commencement

4/19/25: Toole Commencement

4/24/25: Moab Commencement

4/25/25: Blanding Commencement

4/26/25: Eastern Commencement

4/26/25: Uintah Basin Commencement

4/30/25: Logan Commencement

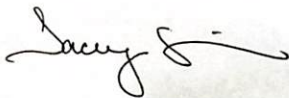
5/1/25 - 5/2/25: Logan College Convocations

15. AdjournMotion:

1:31 PM

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

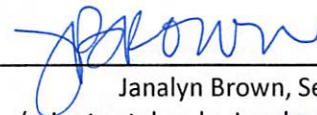
*Agenda items were rearranged throughout the meeting to accommodate the delays.



Jacey Skinner, Chair

4/30/25

Date Approved



Janalyn Brown, Secretary
(minutes taken by Janalyn Brown)

