

Board Members Meeting Minutes
Meeting held at UVU Ashton Center for Leadership & Inspiration
Friday, August 22, 2025, 9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. MST

Attending

President Tuminez
Chris Bae
Clark Collings
Chelsey Curtis
Brian Epperson
Jared Finch
Trina Limpert
Brian Murphy
Kara North
Kyle Reyes
Nathan Savage
Amy Sunderland
Josh Woodbury

Excused

Robbie Bastian
Rob Gardner
Shauna Smith
Vanessa Sloan

Staff Members

Julie Anderson
Greg Jones
Candice Gardner
Kara Schneck
Erin Fleming
Megan Densley
Liz Sowards
Cameron Archibald

Guests

Diego Martinez Cardenas
Ana Caballero Ferreyro
Ana Chicuasque
Eli Holdaway
Olga Liu
Daisy Nielson
Adrianna Oliva
Janessa-Michelle Purcell
Milines Sabala Veras
Mohamed Toure

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nathan Savage called the meeting to order at **9:05 a.m. MST**, with a quorum present. He welcomed the newest member of the board, Jared Finch, and recognized Greg Jones (Associate General Counsel), Megan Densley (IA Director Data & Analysis), Kyle Cullimore (Student Body President), and the cohort of Foundation Ambassadors.

He also formally excused Robbie Bastian, Rob Gardner, Vanessa Sloan, and Shauna Smith.

Special thanks were extended to the Foundation team for their outstanding event coordination. Chair Savage also acknowledged the professionalism and strong engagement of the current board before turning the time over to President Tuminez.

2. UNIVERSITY UPDATE

President Tuminez praised the board's creativity, dedication, and professionalism, calling it "the most professional Foundation Board UVU has ever had." She shared insights around four key themes:

- **People First** – UVU's success is powered by the passion of its people. *SkillsUSA* achievements were highlighted as a prime example.

- **AI Leadership** – UVU is leading in AI adoption. The *Applied AI Institute* received a \$5 million naming gift, positioning the university at the forefront.
- **Innovation in Action** – From top-ranked digital marketing programs to resolving a \$30K funding gap for a student research boat, UVU prioritizes student impact.
- **Institutional Resilience** – In a time of national skepticism about higher education, UVU stands out for its adaptability, care, and forward-thinking mission.

President noted increasing polarization surrounding higher education, particularly among certain political groups. Despite challenges, UVU distinguishes itself through, measurable impact on student outcomes and social mobility. Agility in responding to societal and technological change and mission-driven innovation.

She shared a heartfelt email from a faculty member who expressed concern for students dealing with health issues and trauma—highlighting UVU’s culture of care, uncommon in more elite or detached institutions.

Though President acknowledged challenges in higher ed funding, she expressed optimism, citing support from the Utah Legislature. She also reinforced the need for continued investment in education, healthcare, and infrastructure as essential to societal success.

President Tuminez then shared UVU’s bold vision for growth and leadership, highlighting several key initiatives that are shaping the university’s future. The Ashton Center for Leadership and Inspiration will further empower students by cultivating the next generation of ethical and effective leaders. Enrollment continues to rise, with nearly 38,000 students currently enrolled—and projections exceeding 40,000 when full concurrent enrollment is included. Nationally, UVU was recognized as an “Opportunity University,” placing it in the top 16% of institutions for advancing student economic and social mobility. At the heart of these efforts is UVU’s evolving educational philosophy, which prioritizes transformation, care, accountability, and agility to meet the needs of today’s learners and tomorrow’s leaders.

President closed by thanking the *Culinary Arts Institute*, the *Institutional Advancement team*, and all event organizers for an excellent evening and board gathering.

3. THEME INTRODUCTION: “INNOVATE TO ELEVATE”

Foundation CEO Kyle Reyes introduced the retreat’s theme by sharing how skyscrapers withstand extreme forces—particularly Taipei 101 in Taiwan.

He explained the engineering behind its tuned mass damper—a massive, suspended ball near the top of the building that counteracts wind sway. While some buildings can sway up to 15 feet, Taipei 101’s damper limits movement to just 4 feet, a range imperceptible to humans.

The damper works by detecting kinetic energy and using internal weights to oscillate in the opposite direction—like a motorcyclist leaning into a turn or a boat adjusting weight for balance.

The metaphor: *As UVU grows taller and bolder, it must also build internal stabilizers—its own “tuned mass dampers”—to stay steady, adaptable, and ready for future challenges.*

Reyes emphasized that innovation is not just about expanding—it's about creating the systems that enable sustainable growth and resilience. He added that at every key moment in UVU’s history, leaders have introduced "stabilizing innovations" that allowed the institution to rise higher. He then reviewed key updates:

- **Fundraising Momentum** – Major gifts are generating ripple effects and deepening community engagement. The \$250M Evergreen Campaign goal is within reach, with significant pending gifts.
- **AI & Interdisciplinary Growth** – AI is being integrated across academic disciplines.

- **Care Hub Success** – A first-of-its-kind in Utah, the Care Hub recently secured a \$500K private gift and is now a model for other institutions.

In closing, Reyes remarked that UVU is no longer hesitant to pursue bold, audacious goals—it now fully embraces vision-driven transformation. The university’s trajectory is being shaped by courageous thinking, adaptive leadership, and the unwavering belief of its community. He expressed his deep gratitude to the board for their continued support, emphasizing that together, “we are not just building higher—we are building stronger.”

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Board members were asked to review the Consent Agenda prior to the meeting. Items included:

- **Minutes** – Foundation Board Meeting, May 22, 2025
- **Renewed Membership** – Amy Sunderland (2nd term)

MINUTE ACTION: Approve Consent Agenda

- **Motioned by:** Director Josh Woodbury
- **Seconded by:** Director Kara North
- **Motion:** *Passed unanimously*

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Governance Committee**

Chair Brian Epperson reported that the committee is vetting new members and working toward transformational goals. Key initiatives include recruiting high-impact individuals. He proposed a quarterly “Board Day” to improve onboarding and deepen engagement with UVU’s mission.

- **Investment Committee**

Chair Brian Murphy presented the university’s infrastructure investment strategy, which includes a diversified global portfolio. The portfolio is producing strong returns and meaningful diversification.

Murphy also shared a high-level endowment growth model projecting that UVU’s endowment could grow to \$2–5 billion over the next 30 years, depending on investment returns and continued fundraising.

6. LEGAL TRAINING

General Counsel Clark Collings and Associate Counsel Greg Jones conducted the board’s annual legal training. Topics included:

- Conflict of interest policy
- Open and Public Meetings Act
- Required tax form signings

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **President’s Scholarship Ball** – October 11, 2025
- **Next Foundation Board Meeting** – November 20, 2025
- **Smith Engineering Building Ribbon Cutting** – January 2026

8. CHAIR MESSAGE

Chair Savage expressed appreciation to the board and staff for their preparation and engagement. He encouraged attendees to bring bold ideas and forward-thinking proposals to the afternoon strategy session—focused on how UVU can elevate its impact, scale innovation, and extend its reach.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at **11:29 a.m. MST**.