



MINUTES

SENATE EDUCATION CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Friday, September 12, 2025 | 3:00 p.m. | 120 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ann Millner, Chair
Sen. Heidi Balderree
Sen. Luz Escamilla
Sen. Michael K. McKell
Sen. Chris H. Wilson

Members Absent:

Sen. John D. Johnson
Sen. Kathleen A. Riebe

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.

Chair Millner called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

1. Review the Proposed Appointment of Shauna Smith as a member of the Utah Valley University Board of Trustees

Shauna Smith introduced herself, discussed her background and qualifications, and responded to questions from the committee.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the appointment of Shauna Smith as a member of the Utah Valley University Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 5

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

2. Review the Proposed Reappointment of Keith Titus as a member of the Weber State University Board of Trustees

Keith Titus introduced himself and discussed his background and qualifications.

MOTION: Sen. Wilson moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the reappointment of Keith Titus as a member of the Weber State University Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. A. Millner
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe

3. Review the Proposed Reappointment of Brent Bishop as a member of the Weber State University Board of Trustees

Brent Bishop introduced himself and discussed his background and qualifications.

MOTION: Sen. Escamilla moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the reappointment of Brent Bishop as a member of the Weber State University Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 5

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

4. Review the Proposed Reappointment of Kacie Malouf as a member of the Utah State University Board of Trustees

Kacie Malouf introduced herself, discussed her background and qualifications, and responded to questions from the committee.

MOTION: Sen. Wilson moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the reappointment of Kacie Malouf as a member of the Utah State University Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 5

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

5. Review the Proposed Reappointment of Tessa White as a member of the Utah State University Board of Trustees

Gina Gagon, Vice Chair, Utah State University Board of Trustees, read a letter on behalf of Tessa White and shared her experience working with Tessa on the board.

MOTION: Sen. Wilson moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the reappointment of Tessa White as a member of the Utah State University Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 5

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

6. Review the Proposed Reappointment of Maria Garciaz as a member of the University of Utah Board of Trustees

Maria Garciaz introduced herself, discussed her background and qualifications, and responded to questions from the committee.

MOTION: Sen. Escamilla moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the reappointment of Maria Garciaz as a member of the University of Utah Board of Trustees. The motion failed with a vote of 2 - 3 - 2.

Yeas - 2
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. A. Millner

Nays - 3
Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

Absent - 2
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

7. Review the Proposed Appointment of Greg Sanders as a member of the Ogden-Weber Technical College Board of Trustees

Greg Sanders introduced himself and discussed his background and qualifications.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the appointment of Greg Sanders as a member of the Ogden-Weber Technical College Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4
Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. A. Millner
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 3
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

8. Review the Proposed Appointment of Justin Olson as a member of the Utah Valley University Board of Trustees

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

MOTION: Sen. McKell moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the appointment of Justin Olson as a member of the Utah Valley University Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4
Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. A. Millner
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 3
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

9. Review the Proposed Reappointment of Jeanette Bennett as a member of the Utah Valley University Board of Trustees

Jeanette Bennett introduced herself and discussed her background and qualifications.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the reappointment of Jeanette Bennett as a member of the Utah Valley University Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4
Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. A. Millner
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 3
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

10. Review the Proposed Reappointment of Blake Modersitzki as a member of the Utah Valley University Board of Trustees

Blake Modersitzki introduced himself and discussed his background and qualifications.

MOTION: Sen. McKell moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate the reappointment of Blake Modersitzki as a member of the Utah Valley University Board of Trustees. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. A. Millner
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

11. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. A. Millner
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Chair Millner adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.