



Board of Trustees Meeting

**Weber State University, Miller Administration Building,
Betty Hess Lampros Conference Room - 319
Zoom | ID: 899 4321 9940 | Password: 299962
Thursday, September 18, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

VISION

We will be a leader in transforming lives by meeting all students where they are, challenging and guiding them to achieve their goals academically and in life.

MISSION

We transform lives and communities by educating students of all identities and backgrounds. We nurture success through a supportive environment, individualized pathways, meaningful personal connections with faculty and staff, teaching and experiential learning, research, and civic engagement.

Trustee Members:

Keith Titus, Chair
Lori Belnap Pehrson, Vice Chair
Brent Bishop
Tammy Gallegos
Matt Dixon
Mia Foster
Ally Isom
Brad Wilson

Excused:

Monet Maggelet
Casey Hill

Attendees

Brad Mortensen, President
Leslie Durham, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mark Halverson, Vice President for Administrative Services
Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement
Jessica Oyler, Vice President for Student Access and Success
Stephanie Hollist, Board Secretary & General Counsel

Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Jason Francis, Faculty Senate Chair, Professor/Health Sciences Librarian
Marc Gangwer, Staff Advisory Chair/Director of Financial Aid
John Kowalewski, Executive Director, Marketing & Communications
Chaz Steimel, Director of Budget and Institutional Research
Brenna Sundersan, Presidential Leadership Fellow
Savannah Evans, Executive Assistant

ZOOM Attendees

Bryan Magaña, Public Relations Director
Alexa McFadden, ABC4
Macy Lipkin, KUER

Call to Order

Chair Titus called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. He welcomed all attendees, including those on Zoom. Chair Titus then asked for the identification of any potential or perceived conflicts of interest after reviewing the agenda. Hearing none, the meeting proceeded.

Agenda Items

Swearing in of New Trustee

Trustee Wilson took the oath of office administered by Stephanie Hollist, General Counsel & Board Secretary.

Board of Trustees Weber Orientation and Retreat Collaboration Meeting Minutes (August 28, 2025)

The Board reviewed the minutes from the August 28, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting.

Action: Trustee Isom moved to approve the Board of Trustees meeting minutes from August 28, 2025, with a second by Vice Chair Pehrson. The motion passed unanimously.

Information

Faculty Presentation: Academic Freedom

Presenters Provost Durham, Faculty Senate Chair Francis, and Faculty Senate Vice Chair Herrmann provided an overview of Academic Freedom, including the historical context, definition, protections, and value. Trustees asked questions related to support and proposed next steps. Ideas included continued communication, a review of the current PPMs, and incorporating language in the upcoming Strategic Plan that supports the need for Academic Freedom.

Action

FY26 & FY 27 Budget and Principles

Vice President Halverson presented a comprehensive overview of the university's (E&G) budget process, emphasizing its constraints. He detailed how E&G funds derived from state appropriations and tuition are subject to specific spending restrictions. The presentation highlighted challenges in managing high fixed costs and finding internal resources to cover the shortfall when legislative Cost-of-Living Adjustments are underfunded. Vice President Halverson also clarified the Trustees' critical role in approving the budget policies, as well as all official requests for state funding and proposed tuition increases. Provost Durham is implementing a new process to address the personnel budget by having vacant faculty lines revert to the provost's office for reallocation based on enrollment, student success metrics, and cost of instruction, rather than an automatic replacement in the original department budget.

Action: Vice Chair Pehrson made a motion to approve the FY26 & FY 27 Budget and Principles, with a second from Trustee Gallegos. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Topic: Federal Impact

President Mortensen's special topic centered on the significant changes in federal policy affecting higher education, including uncertainty surrounding the Congressional budget process, a national lawsuit, and grant funding.

Weber State University Fall 2025 Enrollment Report

Vice President Oyler reported a preliminary Fall enrollment count of 33,406 total students, marking a 3.1% increase (about 1,000 students) from the previous year. The degree-seeking enrollment is also up for the third consecutive year by 0.8%. A key institutional strength is the high percentage of students who complete an associate's degree and then immediately re-enroll for bachelor's level classes at the university. This growth was largely concentrated in Health Sciences and General Studies, and the university acknowledged a need for greater strategic scheduling and marketing.

Weber State University Reports

President's Report

President Mortensen focused on the strategic plan update and referenced the written report in the agenda packet for additional information. Provost Durham and Vice President Oyler are heading the initiative, involving outside consultant, and engaging with the University Planning Council.

President Mortensen then introduced student Presidential Leadership Fellow, Brenna Bunderson, who share her WSU story.

President Mortensen also recognized John Kowalewski will be leaving WSU at the end of the month and thanked him for his service of nearly 24 years to the university.

Alumni Association Report

Trustee Dixon highlighted the success in fundraising and reconnecting alumni with the university. The association surpassed historic giving levels this past year, raising over \$285,000, which is the highest amount since 2020. This financial success enabled the Alumni Association to award over \$150,000 worth of scholarships, including privately named and student alumni scholarships supporting the student body. His report also mentioned visible initiatives, such as the placement of new Waldo benches for student and alumni photo opportunities. Trustee Dixon also highlighted the upcoming "Light the W" event, celebrating school spirit and promoting the university's positive activities.

Staff Advisory Council Report

The Staff Advisory Council report was reviewed in the packet without discussion.

Weber State University Student Association Report

Trustee Foster shared the WSUSA report highlighting a social media increase of 1,000 students since the start of the summer. Student engagement is high with all recent events being sold out and attracting over 1500 students.

Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed in the agenda packet without discussion.

Business Committee

Action Items: Trustee Dixon

Trustee Dixon and Vice President Halverson reported on the Business Committee meeting. The following items were presented for approval:

- a. Monthly Investment Reports (April-July 2025)
- b. Housing Lease-Back
- c. Audit Committee Report
- d. Policy Update: PPM 5-28, Fixed Asset Accounting

Action: Trustee Bishop made a motion to approve the Monthly Investment Reports, the Housing Lease-Back, the Audit Committee Report, and the PPM 5-28, Fixed Asset Accounting update, with a second from Trustee Gallegos. The motion passed unanimously.

Information Items

The following items were noted for information:

- a. Business Committee Meeting Minutes - May 22, 2025
- b. Review of Business Committee Charter
- c. Special Topics
- d. Construction Report
- e. Athletic Report
- f. Financial Report (June-July 2025)

Academic Policy Committee Agenda

Action Items: Trustee Gallegos

- a. Policy Update: PPM 6-22, Student Code
- b. Policy Update: PPM 5-36, Safety, Response, and Reporting (Clery)
Action: Trustee Isom made a motion to approve the policy updates to PPM 6-22, Student Code, and PPM 5-36, Safety, Response, and Reporting (Clery), with a second from Trustee Dixon. The motion passed unanimously.

Information Items

The following items were noted for information:

- a. Review of Academic Policy Committee Charter
- b. Review of Tenure Process
- c. Review of Curricular Approval Process
- d. Review of Graduate Studies Endorsement Process
- e. Academic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes - May 22, 2025

Adjourned:

With all agenda items completed and the business finished, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.