

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
December 12, 2023

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Christian Gardner (Chair)	J. Steve Price
Katie Eccles (Vice-Chair)	Bassam Salem
Maria Garciaz	Glenn Seninger (via Zoom)
Jack O'Leary	Jim Sorenson
David Parkin	

EXCUSED

Randy Shumway

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Cathy Anderson	Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Administrative Services
Amy Choate-Nielsen	Director, PR/Communications, Academic Affairs
Megan Cortez	Administrative Officer, PR/Communications
Jerome Davies	Chief Philanthropy Officer
Michael Good	Senior Vice President, Health Sciences
Chase Hagood	Dean, Undergraduate Studies
Mark Harlan	Athletic Director
Jeff Herring	Chief Human Resources Officer
Steve Hess	Chief Information Officer
Teresa Kehl	Special Assistant to the President
Jeff Labrum	Chief Operating Officer
Laura Marks	Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Lori McDonald	Vice President, Student Affairs
Mitzi Montoya	Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Melody Murdock	Director of PR/Communications, Marketing and Communication
Chris Nelson	Chief University Relations Officer & Secretary to the University
Sarah Projansky	Associate Vice President for Faculty
Taylor Randall	President
Steve Robinson	Senior Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management
Erin Rothwell	Vice President Research
Colin Simmons	Executive Director, Auxiliary Services
Andrea Thomas	Chief Experience Officer
Phyllis Vetter	Vice President and General Counsel
Rebecca Walsh	Associate Director of Communications, Marketing and Communication
Karen West	Liaison to the Board of Trustees
Shawn Wood	Manager, PR/Communications

OTHERS ATTENDING

David Anderson	Consultant
Geoffrey Landward	Interim Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education
Gabriel Lozada	Associate Professor, Economic Department

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES and OTHERS PARTICIPATING VIA ZOOM

Kerry Case	Chief Sustainability Officer
Shanti Deemyad	President, Academic Senate
Laura Snow	Senior Advisor
Ivanna Taylor	Director, Real Estate Transactions
David Thomas	Director of Safety, College of Science
Allison Nicholson	Special Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer
Mary Ann Villarreal	Vice President, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

CALL TO ORDERInformation: 1.01 – Call to Order

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:10AM in the S.J. Quinney College of Law, Room 6619. Chair Christian Gardner welcomed Trustees and others in attendance. He excused Trustee Randy Shumway who was unable to attend today.

GENERAL CONSENT

Action (Consent): 2.01 – Minutes of the November 14th Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Action (Consent): 2.02 – Faculty and Staff Matters (Appendix I)

Action (Consent): 2.03 – Sponsored Projects Report (Appendix II)

Action (Consent): 2.04 – University Leases (Appendix III)

Action (Consent): 2.05 – Report of Investments Portfolio for the Month of October (Appendix IV)

Action (Consent): 2.06 – Investment Compliance Report (Appendix V)

Action (Consent): 2.07 – Capital Facilities Projects for Consent (Appendix VI)

Action (Consent): 2.08 – Center – Study of Antitrust and Consumer Protection (Appendix VII)

Action (Consent): 2.09 – Center – Utah Exchange for Interdisciplinary Science (NEXUS) (Appendix VIII)

Action (Consent): 2.10 – Graduate Certificate – Biomedical Engineering Regulatory Affairs in Healthcare (Appendix IX)

Action (Consent): 2.11 – Undergraduate Certificate – Dialogue, Conflict Resolution, and Mediation (Appendix X)

Action (Consent): 2.12 – Minor Discontinuation – Leadership Studies (Appendix XI)

Action (Consent): 2.13 – Naming – Michael K. Cahalan, MD, Conference Room in the HELIX Building (Appendix XII)

Action (Consent): 2.14 – Naming – Lawrence T. & Janet T. Dee Foundation Box Office in Meldrum Theatre (Appendix XIII)

Action (Consent): 2.15 – Naming – John C. & Maria M. DeWitt Room in the Orrin G. Hatch Center (Appendix XIV)

Action (Consent): 2.16 – Naming – Talmage D. Egan, MD, and Julie C. Egan Conference Room in the HELIX Building (Appendix XV)

Action (Consent): 2.17 – Naming Hollaar Electrical Room in the Meldrum Theatre (Appendix XVI)

Action (Consent): 2.18 – Naming – Al and Sue Landon Conference Room in the Robert H. and Katharine B. Garff Executive Education Building (Appendix XVII)

Action (Consent): 2.19 – Naming – Melling Box Office Management in the Meldrum Theatre (Appendix XVIII)

Action (Consent): 2.20 – Naming – PwC Breakout Room in the Robert H. and Katharine B. Garff Executive Education Building (Appendix XIX)

Action (Consent): 2.21 – Naming – Mark and Marcia Webber Family Breakout Room in the Robert H. Katharine B. Garff Executive Education Building (Appendix XX)

Action (Consent): 2.22 – Naming – K.C. Wong, MD, Office of the Chair of Anesthesiology in the HELIX Building (Appendix XXI)

Move to approve the consent agenda including the Center for Study of Antitrust and Consumer Protection, with the understanding that conversations are occurring through the Trustees' Academic Committee regarding the Board's desire for a mechanism of accountability to be implemented to ensure measurable improvement in the Economics Department and to evaluate the success of the Center.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar, by Katie Eccles, second by Maria Garciaz. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Katie Eccles, Maria Garciaz, Christian Gardner, Jack O'Leary, David Parkin, J. Steve Price, Bassam Salem, Glenn Seninger, Jim Sorenson

Background materials are included in the Appendices (as noted above) and are on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

ACTION AGENDA

Action: 3.01 – Directed Services Organization

Jeff Labrum, Chief Operating Officer, presented the Directed Services Organization resolution.

Thanked the Board of Trustees for their support for the past year to year and half as the University of Utah establishes the foundation for the Directed Services Organization. The resolution is for the execution of two

agreements between the University of Utah and the foundation. The foundation is called the University of Utah Growth Capital Partners Foundation. With that name, the foundation is often referred to as the DSO. The concept of the DSO has been discussed on several occasions with the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees over the past year and a half. The concept of the DSO taking on certain university-related business functions is not anything new to higher education. As a matter of fact, the University of Utah lags behind nationally and has been an outlier in this area. Among other public universities, there are 107 R1 Universities and, of those 107, 102 have at least one foundation if not multiple foundations that are operating and supporting the university. At the last Board of Trustees' meeting, the University discussed the progress and developments of the DSO. It was the agreement of the Board of Trustees that the University proceed in executing or creating these two agreements. The two agreements specifically are 1) a broad operating agreement between the DSO and the University and 2) an agreement that deals with the University's endowment. Administration has discussed these agreements in detail with members Board of Trustees Executive Committee as well as the Office of General Counsel. Today the administration is requesting the approval to move forward and finalize these two agreements.

Trustees David Parkin and Jim Sorenson noted their support of the DSO as the University looks to the future.

A copy of the documents are included as Appendix XXII with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

Motion to approve the item 3.01 by David Parkin, second by Maria Garciaz. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Katie Eccles, Maria Garciaz, Christian Gardner, Jack O'Leary, David Parkin, J. Steve Price, Bassam Salem, Glenn Seninger, Jim Sorenson

Action: 3.02 – Naming – Meldrum Theatre at the Einar Nielsen Fieldhouse

Heidi Woodbury, Vice President for University Advancement, presented the proposed naming.

Meldrum Foundation: In recognition of a \$4,500,000 gift from the Meldrum Foundation, the University of Utah would like to name the new theatre in the renovated Einar Nielsen Fieldhouse in their honor. A fully executed gift agreement is in place, and the gift will be paid in full by December 31, 2024.

Motion to approve the item 3.02 by Bassam Salem second by J. Steve Price. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Katie Eccles, Maria Garciaz, Christian Gardner, Jack O'Leary, David Parkin, J. Steve Price, Bassam Salem, Glenn Seninger, Jim Sorenson

Action: 3.03 – Naming – Sandi J. Behnken & Helen C. Patterson Lobby in the Meldrum Theatre

Heidi Woodbury, Vice President for University Advancement, presented the proposed naming.

In recognition of a \$1,800,000 gift from Sandi Behnken, the University of Utah would like to name the lobby of the new Meldrum Theatre in honor of Sandi Behnken and Helen Patterson. A fully executed gift agreement is in place, and the gift will be paid in full by June 30, 2025.

Motion to approve the item 3.03 by Katie Eccles second by Jim Sorenson. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Katie Eccles, Maria Garcia, Christian Gardner, Jack O’Leary, David Parkin, J. Steve Price, Bassam Salem, Glenn Seninger, Jim Sorenson

UNIVERSITY FOCUS

Report: 4.01 – University Focus – Student Affairs Update

Dr. Lori McDonald, VP Student Affairs, presented the Student Affairs Update.

Student Affairs is dedicated to ensuring students have the resources and support to thrive in their academic programs and beyond the classroom. We recognize the challenges students face and are committed to offering a range of services to support their success and well-being. We know the “College Town Magic” vision thrives when students discover their passion, people, and purpose — which is what we specialize in.

Student Affairs is focusing on three specific initiatives:

Create Proactive & Personalized Pathways

Creating proactive and personalized pathways means we will focus on building a coordinated system for tracking student journeys and utilization in order to be more proactive with decision-making and more informed about the student experience. We aim to utilize resources, tools, and services to meet student needs more efficiently and effectively. We will focus on improving data collection and reporting methodologies, internal information sharing, and technology to help us identify who’s attending our event, who is utilizing our services and, most importantly, who isn’t. By creating proactive and personalized pathways, we will be able to reach students who aren’t using our services. Gen Zers were raised on digital and social media, so they have come to expect high levels of personalization and targeting.

Revitalize Engagement & Belonging

We will revitalize engagement and belonging by improving and re-envisioning resources, events, programs, traditions, and services that enhance engagement, connection, belonging, inclusivity, and equity for students. One aspect of this initiative is facilitating ‘pillar events’ that provide students have the opportunity to make close connections by “finding their people,” and also develop a sense of pride and affinity to the university. For example, this year we focused on turning the on-campus move-in process into an experience. We helped almost 5,000 students move into their residence halls before the semester began.

Optimize Health & Wellness

We will optimize health & wellness access by improving and streamlining access and awareness for health and wellness resources for students through physical space changes, peer mentorship, and adapting technology use, to facilitate meeting basic needs, enhancing health literacy, reducing stigma, and providing a seamless user experience. The University of Utah’s last National College Health Assessment revealed that 80 percent of our student’s agreed or strongly agreed that the University of Utah takes the mental health and well-being of our students seriously and provides services. Student Affairs is taking a holistic approach that includes prevention services, that help students learn how to navigate health and wellness within the college system. The more tools students have upon graduation for navigating a rather complicated system in the United States, the better prepared they will be.

The stigma surrounding receiving mental health services and also other health services interventions still exists. To increase access, Student Affairs is in the process of co-locating our Center for Disability and Access with our Center for Campus Wellness and the University Counseling Center. Bringing these health and wellness departments into one centralized location will enhance access to physical facilities and reduce stigma. To accomplish this, the location in the Student Services Building is being renovated to ensure accessibility for wheelchairs, soundproofed to allow for confidential conversations, and a new shared reception area will streamline administrative functions. There will be space for a number of peer groups, peer health navigators and peer health ambassadors, as well as some peer counselors.

Services used last year –

- 662,235 – U-Card swipes at the Eccles Student Life Center
- 15,022 – Counseling appointments – decreased average wait time from 4-8 days to 2-3 days
- 341 students served at the Basic Needs Collective in FY 23

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXIII with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

Report: 4.02 – University Focus – Enrollment Management

Steve Robinson, Senior Associate VP for Enrollment Management shared our enrollment forecast as to where the University of Utah is today and where the University is heading.

The University has a goal to enroll 40,000 students. Enrollment Management believes the University can accomplish this by 2026. Each year the U will need to gain roughly 1,500 new enrollments to achieve this goal.

For the fourth consecutive year, the University has seen record enrollment. Looking to undergraduate enrollment, the University's goal is to have 30,000 students. Each year to achieve the University's goal, the U will need to have approximately 1,100 new enrolled undergraduate students. The U will need to increase its overall freshman enrollment to 6,000 students annually in order to achieve 40,000 students and maintain it.

Utah numbers have been growing steadily but there are finite number of students graduating from high schools within Utah. The U is seeing growing interest and growing strength in a lot of nonresident markets. The four largest states are California, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington. The U enrolled over 700 freshmen from California this fall. In previous years, we've not seen that many freshmen from California. The enrollment events held in these states were at capacity last year and seeing the same trend continuing into this current recruiting season. Of note the gains in nonresident students do not come at the expense of our Utah students. Our admissions standards have not changed in the last five years. The U still admits all applicants who meet our admission standards for Utahans and well as non-residents.

Over the past four years, the University of Utah has seen applications grow by 27 percent. If we look back to fall of 2020 the U had about 17,000 applications and this past cycle the U had 24,000 applications. This growth is coming from all sectors for our freshman class. The expansion at the top of the enrollment funnel gives the U more opportunities to convert more students into admits and then to enrollees. It also over time allows the U to change the way in which we admit students. Senior Associate VP for Enrollment

Management Robinson's goal is to get the University well above 30,000 applications, which puts the U in line with our regional peers.

Fall 2024 Preliminary-

- Applications for freshman class are up 25 percent (same day as last year)
 - Growth in all markets
 - Up 13.7 percent in Utah
 - Up 32 percent in non-residents
 - Up 27.9 percent in international

The U has been spending a lot of time and resources in developing our market share in Utah County.

- Introduced the new Point of the Mountain scholarship
 - Must have 4.0 at the time of application
 - Must be a student in Alpine, Nebo or Provo school districts at the time of application and graduation
 - Receive \$15,000 each year for tuition and mandatory fees
 - Receive \$13,700 for first-year housing if student lives in HRE housing

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXIV with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Report: 5.01 – Current Events

Chair Gardner noted the following:

- December 12 – President's Holiday Open House

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report: 6.01 – Honors and Awards to Members of the University Community, Distinguished Visitors and Research

President Randall referred Trustees to the written report included in the agenda materials and highlighted some of the noteworthy accomplishments listed, stating that many remarkable things are happening at the University of Utah.

A copy of the items is included as Appendix XXV with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

Report 6.02 – Current Events and Update

- Final Exam Week
- December 1- USHE passed resolution on Freedom of Expression
- December 23 – SRC Las Vegas Bowl, Utah vs. Northwestern (football)

- February 28 – Founders Day - Trustee Seninger noted that the Founders Day celebration will be held at the Cleone Peterson Eccles Alumni House. This year the Office of Alumni Relations received many nominations for the annual awards and ranked them based on the following four categories:
 - Professionalism
 - Volunteerism and their contributions to the community
 - Awards previously received
 - Involvement on campus

The following individuals will be honored at Founders Day 2024:

Distinguished Alumni

Jesselie B. Anderson
Edna Anderson-Taylor
Verlinda Montoya

GOLD (Graduate Of the Last Decade) Alumni Award

Anjanette Watts Walsh

Honorary Alumni

Ronald and Vicky McBride

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENTS REPORTS

Report: 7.01 – Academic Affairs Report

In a written report to the Board, Dr. Montoya noted the following:

U students win top honors in NASA-sponsored competition

A team of University of Utah engineering students won [top honors in a NASA-sponsored competition](#) with their proposal for refining the iron that is abundant at the lunar surface. The group, led by John Otero and Collin Andersen, graduate students in the U's [John and Marcia Price College of Engineering](#), adapted a century-old process known as [carbonyl iron](#) refining, or CIR, for use in a lunar environment with its non-existent atmosphere, freezing temperatures and low gravity.

<https://attheu.utah.edu/students/heres-how-to-forge-metal-on-the-moon/>

U ranked in top 5 for entrepreneurship in the West by Princeton Review

The University of Utah's [David Eccles School of Business](#) is ranked No. 2 for undergraduate and No. 3 for graduate entrepreneurship education in the West in new rankings from the Princeton Review for 2024. The entrepreneurship programs at the Eccles School are provided in partnership between the [Department of Entrepreneurship & Strategy](#) and the [Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute](#).

<https://lassonde.utah.edu/u-of-utah-ranked-top-5-for-entrepreneurship-in-the-west-by-princeton-review/>

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXVI with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

Report: 7.02 – Health Sciences Report

In a written report to the Board, Dr. Good noted the following:

Health Science Academics

- The Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine (SFESOM) received a \$15.2 million grant from the Bureau of Health Workforce/HRSA to prepare and encourage medical students to choose primary care careers in tribal, rural, or medically under-resourced communities. With more than \$1.4 million in annual student scholarships, SFESOM can significantly expand education into rural and tribal health systems.

New U of U Health-Produced Documentary Premieres at 2024 Sundance Film Festival

- “Winding Path,” a short documentary directed by Alexandra Lazarowich and Ross Kauffman, tells the story of an Eastern Shoshone MD/PhD student at the Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine. The documentary premieres at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival as one of 53 films selected from 12,000 submissions for the Documentary Short Program. “Winding Path” is the fourth film U of U Health’s New Narratives in Health series, which is sponsored by the Kahlert Foundation.

Research Milestones

- Sarah Shizuko, PsyD, associate professor of population health sciences, is leading a clinical trial testing whether a non-invasive “brain training” tool resembling a video game can alleviate “brain fog” symptoms associated with COVID-19. Study participants will be offered an online intervention called BrainHQ, a suite of computerized games/exercises that train different cognitive functions such as attention, memory, processing speed, and navigation.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXVII with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

ASUU UPDATE

Report: 8.01 – ASUU Report

Trustee Jack O’Leary referred Trustees to his written report and shared an update on ASUU’s current plans and activities.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXVIII with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

ACADEMIC SENATE

Report: 9.01 – Academic Senate Report

Shanti Deemyad, Academic Senate President, referred Trustees to Academic Senate written report and shared an update.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXIX with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

INFORMATION AGENDA

Information: 10.01 – UUHC Financial Pulse

Chair Gardner referenced the UUHC Financial Pulse and invited questions. None were raised.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXX, with the official minutes of this meeting on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

ADJOURN

Resolution: Chair Gardner recommended a motion to adjourn the open meeting of the Board of Trustees.

At 10:27a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on February 13, 2024.

Motion to approve by David Parkin second by Bassam Salem. Final Resolution: Motion Approved.

Aye: Katie Eccles, Maria Garciaz, Christian Gardner, Jack O'Leary, David Parkin, J. Steve Price, Bassam Salem, Glenn Seninger, Jim Sorenson

Signed by: Christopher Nelson

Date approved: 13 February 2024