

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2025

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Curt Doman	David Parkin (Vice Chair)
Katie Eccles (Chair)	Alex Rose
Kathi Garff	Bassam Salem
Maria Garciaz	Randy Shumway
Steve Miller	Jamie Sorenson

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Rachel Aho	Chief of Staff, Vice President for Student Services
Cathy Anderson	Special Advisor to the President
Bob Carter	Executive Vice President, Health Sciences, and CEO, University of Utah Health
Amy Choate	Associate Director, Content Creation
Troy D'Ambrosio	Chief of Staff, President's Office, and Vice President, Innovation
Jerome Davies	Chief Philanthropy Officer
Kurt Dirks	Dean, David Eccles School of Business
Brett Eden	Director, Auxiliary Business Development
Chase Hagood	Vice Provost for Student Success
Derreck Hanson	Executive Director, Red Butte Garden
Mark Harlan	Athletic Director
Steve Hess	Chief Information Officer
Emma Houston	Director, Community Engagement
Lori Kaczka	Senior Director, Facilities
Teresa Kehl	Deputy Chief of Staff and Special Assistant to the First Lady, President's Office
Andrew King	Director, Construction Project Management
Heather King	Associate Director, PR and Communications
Paul Kirk	Senior Associate Athletic Director for Strategic Communication
Paul Kohn	Sr. Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment and Student Success
Jeff Labrum	Chief Operating Officer
Dan Lundergan	CEO, University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics
Laura Marks	Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Allie Menzdorf	President, Staff Council
Mitzi Montoya	Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs
Melody Murdock	Director, Strategic Communications
Chris Nelson	Chief University Relations Officer & Secretary to the University
Dennis Owens	Associate General Counsel
Dave Patel	Administrative Director, VP Government Relations
Rob Patton	Executive Communications Manager, PR and Communications
Robert Payne	Deputy General Counsel
Richard Preiss	President, Academic Senate
Annalisa Purser	Director of Board Governance, Policy and Operations
Taylor Randall	President
Jenn Reed	Associate Vice President, Auxiliary Services

Collin Simmons	Executive Director, Auxiliary Services
Laura Snow	Interim Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice President for Health Sciences
Andrea Thomas	Chief Experience Officer
David Titensor	Associate Director, Creative Services
Peter Trapa	Vice Provost and Senior Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Phyllis Vetter	General Counsel
Tony Wagner	Chief Financial Officer
Danny Wall	Administrative Director, Real Estate
Elizabeth Kronk Warner	Dean, S.J. Quinney College of Law
Heidi Woodbury	Vice President, Institutional Advancement

OTHERS

David Anderson	Chairman and CEO, University of Utah Growth Capital Partners Foundation
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CALL TO ORDER

Information: 1.01 – Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 8:00 a.m. in the S.J. Quinney College of Law, Room 6619. Chair Katie Eccles welcomed Trustees and others in attendance.

GENERAL CONSENT

Action (Consent): 2.01 – Minutes of the November 13th Meetings 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 September (Appendix IV)

Action (Consent): 2.06 – Faculty Awards (Appendix V)

Action (Consent): 2.07 – Revise – Policy 7-001 Research Misconduct (Appendix VI)

Action (Consent): 2.08 – Program Restructure – International and Area Studies (Appendix VII)

Action (Consent): 2.09 – Program Restructure – Studio Art BFA (Appendix VIII)

Action (Consent): 2.10 – Program Restructure – World Languages and Cultures (Appendix IX)

Action (Consent): 2.11 – Report of Auxiliary Enterprises Operations (Appendix X)

Action (Consent): 2.12 – Capital Facilities Projects for Consent (Appendix XI)

Action (Consent): 2.13 – ASUU Redbook Changes (Appendix XII)

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar by Randy Shumway, second by Maria Garciaz. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Curt Doman, Katie Eccles, Maria Garciaz, Kathi Garff, Steve Miller, David Parkin, Alex Rose, Bassam Salem, Randy Shumway, Jamie 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 – Red Butte Garden and Arboretum Improved Arrival & Traffic Circulation Project

Derreck Hanson, Executive Director of Red Butte Garden, noted that Red Butte Garden and Arboretum is seeking to increase user access and safety with a re-envisioned parking and arrival experience—a new bus and shuttle stop, dedicated school bus drop-off, additional parking, and minor realignment of a short segment of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. This will maximize the Garden’s capacity to serve its growing audience and educate more K-12 Utah schoolchildren, as well as improve pedestrian safety. The project supports the U’s Strategy 2030 goals to serve communities, promote well-being, and amplify place, and U Operational Excellence initiatives to improve community experiences and outcomes.

Budget - \$5M

Funding Source - Department Funds (earned revenue and unrestricted donor funds)

Additional clarifying questions were raised and addressed prior to the motion to approve the project.

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

Motion to approve moving forward with design and construction of a new arrival and traffic circulation project at Red Butte Garden and Arboretum by Jamie Sorenson second by Curt Doman
Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Curt Doman, Katie Eccles, Maria Garciaz, Kathi Garff, Steve Miller, David Parkin, Alex Rose, Bassam Salem, Randy Shumway, Jamie Sorenson

Action: 3.02 – Proposal to Support the University’s Long-Term Financial Stability, Visibility and Strategic Goals

Chair Eccles invited President Randall and Athletic Director Mark Harlan to present.

President Randall began by acknowledging that in June 2025 the Trustees asked the Athletics Department and the University Foundation to explore options to create a long-term financial plan of viability for the U’s Athletics Department.

President Randall walked the Board through the proposal as outlined in the slide deck. This included the University’s vision and intentions, the challenges facing college Athletics, additional contextual considerations, and the alternative options that were evaluated.

He expressed that the proposal was centered on ensuring the long-term financial viability of Athletics so the institution can focus on its core mission of student success, research, and community impact. Additionally, he indicated that cutting non-revenue-generating athletics programs was not a viable option if the University intends to continue its trajectory of having an elite Athletics program.

Mark Harlan noted the financial impact of NIL (name, image, and likeness) and the conference realignment on the Athletics Department and pointed out that other external factors affect the way the University must prepare financially.

After providing that context, President Randall presented the proposal to create a new, for-profit company Utah Brands & Entertainment (proposed name) within the University Growth Capital Partners Foundation. The U would transfer certain revenue rights to the Foundation, and the Foundation would assign the rights to the new company. In return, the company will fund the revenue shares which the University may pay to student-athletes as allowed under the House settlement and pay dividends to the Foundation to support the Athletics Department, and potentially, other areas of the institution as well. The U will retain control of the Athletics Department, including hiring and care and management of student-athletes.

President Randall and Mark Harlan reviewed the operational and capital structure with the Board. Specifically, the new company will be capitalized by outside investors purchasing a minority equity position. The Foundation will own a majority of the new company and have a majority of the voting members of the Board. Otro Capital would be the primary investor and would bring operating expertise in the professional sports space.

Chair Eccles thanked President Randall and Athletic Director Harlan for their presentation. She acknowledged the work that had gone into this proposal and expressed appreciation for the many hours the team put into exploring different options, as well as the work to vet this plan for the benefit of the University.

Before opening the floor to questions and discussion, Chair Eccles noted that this meeting is the culmination of many hours of consideration by individual Trustees. The terms of this proposal had been discussed regularly by the Executive Committee, and each Trustees had done their own personal research—meeting with University leadership, studying the issues, and contemplating what is being proposed.

Trustees asked additional clarifying questions of administration about governance and control mechanisms, financial responsibility, due diligence and risks. At the conclusion of the deliberation, Christopher Nelson, Secretary of the University, read the full resolution.

A copy of the presentation and resolution are included as Appendix XIV with the official minutes of this meeting and are on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

Motion to approve the resolution by Kathi Garff, second by Steve Miller. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Curt Doman, Katie Eccles, Maria Garciaz, Kathi Garff, Steve Miller, David Parkin, Alex Rose, Bassam Salem, Randy Shumway, Jamie Sorenson

CHAIR'S REPORT

Report: 4.01 – Current Events

Chair Eccles said the Board would come back to item 3.02 after the reports were presented. She thanked everyone for accommodating an earlier start time this morning and acknowledged that the Board of Trustees deferred reports at the November meeting, so the Board members looked forward to hearing updates from administration and others this morning.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report: 5.01 – Report from University Administration

President Randall noted the following:

INNOVATE:

U LAUNCHES CHATGPT EDU, A UNIVERSITY-CENTERED GENERATIVE AI TOOL

- The U has partnered with OpenAI to bring a new aspect of the One-U Responsible AI Initiative to life.
- ChatGPT Edu will ensure access to enhanced features, higher data privacy standards, and academic-focused optimizations.
- ChatGPT Edu can be used for any work that doesn't contain sensitive or restricted data and should be used for university-related tasks instead of a personal ChatGPT account.

U OF U HEALTH ACHIEVES RECORD RESEARCH FUNDING

- University of Utah Health has surpassed the half-billion-dollar mark in research funding for the 2025 fiscal year.
- Research activity in the health sciences has grown 24% in the past five years and more than doubled since 2014.
- This research funding, mostly from the National Institutes of Health, combined with philanthropic investments are helping researchers address some of society's most urgent health problems.

PRECIOUS COMPUTER-AGE RELIC TURNS UP IN U STORAGE ROOM

- A storage room at the U's Merrill Engineering Building has been home to a priceless piece of computing history for over 50 years: a nine-track magnetic tape that could hold the only known copy of an early computer operating system, UNIX Version 4.
- The reel will be transported to the Computer History Museum in Silicon Valley for careful imaging and preservation.

Executive Vice President for Health Sciences Carter noted the following:

LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Darin Ryujin, MS, MPAS, PA-C, was appointed inaugural vice chair for Advocacy, Success, and Impact in the Division of Physician Assistant Education and Sciences at the Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine.

AWARDS, GRANTS, & RECOGNITION

- The Destination Care program has once again been awarded a travel grant from Southwest Airlines, enabling more patients and their caregivers from beyond Utah to receive specialty care and support services at U of U Health.
- Nathorn (Nui) Chaiyakunapruk, PharmD, PhD, professor of pharmacotherapy, was named a 2025 Clarivate “Highly Cited Researcher,” placing his publications among the top 1% most cited worldwide. His global health and health technology assessment research continues to influence policy and practice across infectious and non-communicable disease care.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Montoya noted the following:

STUDENT SUCCESS:

U MEETS GOAL TO BRING DEGREE PROGRAMS WITHIN 120-CREDIT HOUR CAP

- As part of the “Activate Project: Developing and Maintaining Functional 4-Year Degree Plans,” the University of Utah set a goal to bring all degree programs within the 120-credit hour cap—allowing exceptions up to 122 hours when required for program accreditation.
- This initiative ensures that every undergraduate student has access to a clear, realistic path to timely completion.
- Through coordinated faculty review, advisor collaboration and annual maintenance, we have met that goal and strengthened our commitment to student success and academic efficiency across the institution

RAIL JAM ATTRACTS MORE THAN 3,500

- The Associated Students of the University of Utah (ASUU) partnered with Woodward Park City to present ASUU Rail Jam on Friday, Nov. 7.
- The event welcomed nearly 3,100 students and 500 community members.
- Woodward facilitated an impressive lineup of 65 University of Utah student riders and featured U alum, professional freestyle skier and X Games gold medalist Tom Wallisch.

CELEBRATING RESEARCH:

U SCIENTISTS STRIVE TO IMPROVE SNOWFALL FORECASTS

- The varied topography of the Western United States results in minutely localized weather. Accordingly, snowfall forecasts for the mountain West often suffer from a lack of precision, with predictions provided as broad ranges of inch depths for a given day or storm cycle.

- According to an @theU article, the crux of the problem lies in the snow-to-liquid ratio (SLR), which varies widely in the West. If you don't have a good snow-to-liquid ratio, snowfall forecasts will not be as good, according to Peter Veals, a U research assistant professor of atmospheric sciences.
- New research by Veals and a group of University of Utah scientists aims to improve methods of forecasting by applying machine learning to manually collected snowfall data from 14 mountain sites by snow-safety professionals employed by ski areas and transportation departments.

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

Report: 5.02 – Current Events

President Randall noted the following:

- Classes for Fall Semester ended on Friday. Students are returning to class on Monday, January 5.
- February 26 – Founders Day - Trustee Sorenson 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 2026:

Distinguished Alumni

Pat Child

Khosrow Semnani

Jeff Cardon

Cecelia Foxley

Honorary Alumni

Helen Cardon

Mayra Sanchez-Gomez

Graduate of the Last Decade Award

Curtis Pierce

ASUU UPDATE

Report: 6.01 – ASUU Report

Trustee Alex Rose shared an update on ASUU's current plans and activities.

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

ACADEMIC SENATE

Report: 7.01 – Academic Senate Report

Dr. Richard Preiss, president of the Academic Senate, shared updates and referred Trustees to the Senate's written report.

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

STAFF COUNCIL

Report: 8.01 – Staff Council Report

Allie Menzdorf, President, Staff Council, shared updates and referred Trustees to the Staff Council's written report.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XVIII 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

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

ADJOURN

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jamie Sorenson, second by Bassam Salem. Final Resolution:
Motion Approved. Aye: Curt Doman, Katie Eccles, Maria Garciaz, Kathi Garff, Steve Miller, David Parkin, Alex Rose, Bassam Salem, Randy Shumway, Jamie Sorenson

At 10:23 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on January 13, 2026.

Signed by: Christopher Nelson

Date approved: January 13, 2026

