



## **Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Miller Administration Building - Betty Hess Lampros Boardroom - 319**

**3850 S Dixon Parkway, Ogden, UT 84408**

**Zoom | ID: 841 9483 3851 | Password: 299962**

**Monday, December 15, 2025 | 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM**

### **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**

Chair Keith Titus

Vice Chair Lori Belnap Pehrson

Brent Bishop

Casey Hill

Ally Isom

Tammy Gallegos

Monet Maggelet

### **Attendees**

Leslie Durham, Interim President

Brent Horn, Interim Provost

Ali Threet, Interim VP for Student Access and Success

### **Excused**

Matt Dixon

Brad Wilson

Mia Foster

Betsy Mennell, VP for University Advancement

Alema Leota, Interim General Counsel

Jason Francis, Faculty Senate Chair/Professor/Health Sciences Librarian

Steven Richardson, Director for Strategic Initiatives

Savannah Evans, Executive Assistant to the President

Bryan Magaña, Interim Director of Public Relations

TJ Bliss, USHE Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs

**Excused:**

Marc Gangwer, Staff Advisory Council Chair/Director for Financial Aid

**Zoom Attendees**

Betty Sawyer

Galaxy S21

**Agenda Items**

**Call to Order and Identification of Any Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Chair Titus called the meeting to order at 9:32 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.

**Transitions**

Chair Titus recognized the changes in leadership and transitions that have taken place since the last Board meeting. He introduced the Interim President Leslie Durham, Interim Provost Brent Horn, Interim Vice President Ali Threet for Student Access and Success, and Interim General Counsel, Alema Leota.

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes (October 20, 2025)**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the October 20, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting.

**Action:** Trustee Gallegos moved to approve the Board of Trustees meeting minutes from October 20, 2025, with a second by Trustee Isom. The motion passed unanimously.

**Appointment of Board Secretary**

Stephanie Hollist, left her position as General Counsel and Board Secretary at Weber State University in early November. Chair Titus would like to appoint Interim General Counsel Alema Leota, as Board Secretary.

**Action:** Trustee Bishop made a motion to approve the appointment Interim General Counsel Alema Leota, to Board Secretary, with a second from Trustee Isom. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Appointment of Business Committee Chair**

**Action:** Vice Chair Pehrson made a motion to approve the appointment of Trustee Matt Dixon to Business Committee Chair, with a second from Trustee Maggelet. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Information**

#### **Faculty Presentation: Sabbaticals**

Weber State University officials and trustees discussed the role of sabbaticals in faculty retention and the maintenance of a high-quality "teacher-scholar" model. While the program costs approximately \$3 million annually, it is more effective for academic development than private-sector retention methods like raises or promotions. Currently, about 5-10% of faculty are on sabbatical at any given time, with each application vetted by department chairs and deans to ensure strategic value and classroom coverage. The board explored why sabbatical policies are managed at the institutional level rather than through a single statewide mandate, noting that Weber State maintains generous policies in Utah. The discussion balanced the necessity of these professional leaves for educational excellence with the university's fiduciary responsibility to maximize measurable outcomes from the investment.

#### **Special Topic: Comprehensive Campaign**

Vice President Betsy Mennell for University Advancement provided a presentation on WSU's Comprehensive Campaign:

Weber State is currently in the sixth year of an eight-year comprehensive campaign with a total goal of \$200 million. The university is transitioning from the "private phase" to a formal "public phase" on January 9th, having already raised \$114 million toward its target. The campaign is closely aligned with the university's strategic plan, focusing on student success through "completion scholarships" (Catapult) and adult re-enrollment programs (Catalyst). Other priorities include teaching excellence and workforce development in high-growth sectors like aerospace, sustainability, and health.

Despite a recent change in the university presidency, leadership decided to proceed with the campaign. They emphasized that the campaign's mission, supporting students, transcends individual leadership and that the university's momentum remains strong. Following the main event in Ogden, the university will host regional events in St. George and Seattle to engage alumni and donors. Trustees were encouraged to act as advocates and "door-openers" rather than direct solicitors. The university committed to providing them with specific talking points on high-performance areas, such as aerospace, to help them communicate the university's value to the community.

### **Strategic Plan Update**

President Durham emphasized that the university plans to continue its strategic planning or core operations during the transition to a new leader, as maintaining momentum is vital for students, faculty, and the community. The administration is focusing the upcoming semester on a thoughtful "listening and research" phase to refine the strategic plan without overstepping the role of the future president. The board and leadership are coordinating these efforts to address campus morale and operational efficiency while deferring complex topics, such as specific joint ventures, for future sessions.

## **Weber State University Reports**

### **President's Report**

The President's Report was reviewed in the packet without discussion. Interim President Durham then invited the Presidential Fellows, Kalijah Robinson, Grace Edogiawerie, and Emmalee Tooley, introduce themselves and discuss journey here at WSU.

### **Alumni Association**

Vice President Betsy Mennell provided updates for the Alumni Association, specifically highlighting two mentoring programs that align with the university's strategic plan. These initiatives include an ongoing mentorship program and a networking dinner designed to foster long-term professional relationships. The presentation emphasized that these are part of a broader, university-wide effort to support students and alumni through mentorship.

### **Staff Advisory Council**

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

### **Weber State University Student Association**

The WSUSA report was reviewed in the packet without discussion.

### **Upcoming Events**

The upcoming events was reviewed in the packet without discussion.

### **Business Committee Agenda**

#### **Action Items: Vice Chair Pehrson**

- a. Monthly Investment Report (September 2025)
- b. Institutional Residence Report
- c. Auxiliary Enterprises Annual Report
- d. Institutional Discretionary Fund Report
- e. Bad Debt Write Off

**Action:** Trustee Brent Bishop moved to approve the Monthly Investment Report (September 2025), Institutional Residence Report, Auxiliary Enterprises Annual Report, Institutional Discretionary Fund Report, and Bad Debt Write off, with a second from Trustee Tammy Gallegos. The motion passed unanimously.

The following were noted for information:

- a. Financial Report (September 2025)
- b. Housing and Dining Rates
- c. Special Topic: Energy & Sustainability Program
- d. Business Committee Meeting Minutes, October 30, 2025

### **Academic Policy Committee**

#### **Action: Trustee Gallegos**

- a. Program Reviews
  - a. Early Childhood Education
  - b. Electrical & Computer Engineering
  - c. Geography

**Action:** Vice Chair Pehrson made a motion to approve the programs for Early Childhood Education, Electrical & Computer Engineering, and Geography, with a second from Trustee Ally Isom. The motion passed unanimously.

The following items were noted for information:

- a. Weber State University Charter Academy 2025 Annual Update Report
- b. Academic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, October 30, 2025

**Adjourned**

With all agenda items completed and the business finished, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.