

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
JANUARY 13, 2026

TRUSTEES PRESENT

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

EXCUSED

Steve Miller

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Cathy Anderson	Special Advisor to the President
Sierra Canela	Director of Governance and Leadership
Bob Carter	Executive Vice President, Health Sciences, and CEO, University of Utah Health
Troy D'Ambrosio	Chief of Staff, President's Office, and Vice President, Innovation
Jerome Davies	Chief Philanthropy Officer
Mark Harlan	Athletic Director
Jeff Herring	Chief Human Resources Officer
Steve Hess	Chief Information Officer
Teresa Kehl	Deputy Chief of Staff and Special Assistant to the First Lady, President's Office
Heather King	Associate Director, PR and Communications
Jeff Labrum	Chief Operating Officer
Dan Lundergan	CEO, University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics
Mitzi Montoya	Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs
Chris Nelson	Chief University Relations Officer & Secretary to the University
Jason Perry	Vice President, Government Relations
Richard Preiss	President, Academic Senate
Sarah Projeansky	Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs
Annalisa Purser	Director of Board Governance, Policy and Operations
Taylor Randall	President
Laura Snow	Interim Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice President for Health Sciences
Andrea Thomas	Chief Experience Officer
Michelle Thompson	Manager, Office of Student Experience
Peter Trapa	Vice Provost and Senior Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Phyllis Vetter	General Counsel
Rebecca Walsh	Director, PR/Communications
Heidi Woodbury	Vice President, University Advancement

OTHERS

TJ Bliss	Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs
Christena Huntsman Durham	Incoming Trustee (subject to Senate confirmation)

## CALL TO ORDER

Information: 1.01 – Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 8:03 a.m. in the Cleone Peterson Eccles Alumni House, Sorenson Legacy Foundation Boardroom. Chair Eccles welcomed Trustees and others in attendance. She excused Steve Miller who was unable to attend.

## GENERAL CONSENT

Action (Consent): 2.01 – Minutes of the December 9 Meetings of the Board of Trustees

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

Action (Consent): 2.03 – Report of Investments Portfolio – for the Month of October (Appendix II)

Action (Consent): 2.04 – Faculty Awards (Appendix III)

Action (Consent): 2.05 – New Certificate – Health and Medical Writing (Appendix IV)

Action (Consent): 2.06 – Restructure Certificate – Computational Linguistics CRU (Appendix V)

Action (Consent): 2.07 – New Emphases – Computer Science (Appendix VI)

Action (Consent): 2.08 – New Emphasis – Data Science – Artificial Intelligence (Appendix VII)

Action (Consent): 2.09 – New Emphases – Elementary Education BA/BS (Appendix VIII)

Action (Consent): 2.10 – New Emphases - Linguistics (Appendix IX)

Action (Consent): 2.11 – New Emphasis – Software Development - Artificial Intelligence (Appendix X)

Action (Consent): 2.12 – New Emphasis - Writing and Rhetoric Studies (Appendix XI)

Action (Consent): 2.13 – Restructure Emphasis – Music BMU (Appendix XII)

Action (Consent): 2.14 – Program Change – Education in Health Professions CRG (Appendix XIII)

Action (Consent): 2.15 – Program Change – English Department (Appendix XIV)

Action (Consent): 2.16 – Program Change – Spatial Data Science (Appendix XV)

Action (Consent): 2.17 – Restructure – Gender and Ethnic Studies (Appendix XVI)

Action (Consent): 2.18 – Revise Policies – 2-003 President of the University, 2-004 Organization of the University, 6-001 Academic Units and Academic Governance, and 6-002 The Academic Senate and Senate Committees (Appendix XVII)

Action (Consent): 2.19 – Naming – Ronald and Eileen Ragsdale Lecture Hall in the Henry Eyring Chemistry Building (Appendix XVIII)

Action (Consent): 2.20 – Naming - An Incubator in the James LeVoy Sorenson Center for Medical Innovation in Honor of Evan and Susan Unger (Appendix XIX)

Prior to the motion, Chair Eccles highlighted a few items:

- There were a few program changes, including new emphases, updated structures, and streamlined requirements.
  - These changes align with industry trends and workforce needs, simplify degree pathways, and improve clarity and flexibility while maintaining academic rigor.
  - Additionally, they use existing courses and faculty and do not require additional costs.
  - We appreciate the U's continued commitment to efficiency, student success, and academic excellence.
  
- Chair Eccles also highlighted item 2.18, which revised four important U policies. Updates were made to comply with changes to state law, as well as improve policy organization and address gaps in policy.
  - Specifically, these revisions reaffirm the U's commitment to shared governance and the importance of collaboration and communication.
  - Faculty committees continue to articulate a review and recommendation process, with the President and/or the Board of Trustees as the ultimate approver(s).
  - It is important to note that the changes not only reflect compliance with state law and Utah Board of Higher Education policies, but also better match current practice.

**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, David Parkin, Alex Rose, Bassam Salem, Randy Shumway, Jamie Sorenson

Background materials are included in the Appendices (as noted above) and can be found online (in BoardDocs) with each agenda item or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

### **ACTION AGENDA**

Action: 3.01 – Naming – Marc Dale Risman Sixth Floor in the S.J. Quinney College of Law

Heidi Woodbury, VP University Advancement presented item 3.01.

**Marc Dale Risman Sixth Floor:** In recognition of a \$3,000,000 gift from Marc Dale Risman, the University of Utah would like to name the sixth floor in the S.J. Quinney College of Law building in his honor. A fully executed gift agreement is in place.

**Motion to approve naming the 6<sup>th</sup> floor in the S. J. Quinney College of Law in honor of Marc Dalee Risman by David Parkin, second by Alex Rose. Final Resolution: Motion Approved.** Aye: Curt Doman, Katie Eccles, Maria Garciaz, Kathi Garff, David Parkin, Alex Rose, Bassam Salem, Randy Shumway, Jamie Sorenson

## CHAIR'S REPORT

### Report: 4.01 – Current Events

Chair Eccles noted the following:

Commencement and College Convocations –

- A convocation sign-up sheet will be circulated among Trustees, and ideally, we would like to have at least one Trustee at each Convocation.
- This year's commencement is Thursday evening, April 30. Convocations for the colleges will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday (April 30 – May 2).
- The S.J. Quinney College of Law and College Pharmacy convocations will take place on Friday, May 8.
- The Spencer Fox School of Medicine and the School of Dentistry convocations will take place on Friday, May 15

Tuition 2026-27

- Utah Board of Higher Education policy gives Trustees the responsibility to review and recommend the institutional requests to adjust tuition and general fees. Part of the required review process is the Trustees' participation / representation at the annual Truth in Tuition meeting on Wednesday, March 4. Meeting details will be shared as the date approaches.

### Report: 4.02 – Resolution of Appreciation – Maria Garciaz

Chair Eccles recognized Trustee Maria Garciaz for her service to the University of Utah. Trustee Randy Shumway read the Resolution of Appreciation, noting the accomplishments during her tenure. Several commented on her leadership and indicated it had been a privilege to work with Maria the past few years.

A copy of the resolution is included as Appendix XX with the official minutes of this meeting and can be obtained through the Office of the Secretary to the University or online (in BoardDocs) with the associated agenda item.

### Report: 4.02 – Resolution of Appreciation – David Parkin

Vice-Chair Eccles recognized Trustee David Parkin for his service to the University of Utah. Trustee Bassam Salem read the resolution noting the accomplishments during his tenure. Several commented on what a privilege it has been to work with David the past few years and commended him on his leadership.

A copy of the resolution is included as Appendix XXI with the official minutes of this meeting and can be obtained through the Office of the Secretary to the University or online (in BoardDocs) with the associated agenda item.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Report: 5.01 – Current Events

President Randall noted the following:

- January 28 – Ballpark Ribbon Cutting
- February 26 – Founders Day

## STAFF COUNCIL

### Report: 6.01 – Staff Council Report

Chair Eccles noted the Staff Council Report was included in the Board of Trustees materials.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXII with the official minutes of this meeting and can be obtained through the Office of the Secretary to the University or online (in BoardDocs) with the associated agenda item.

## INFORMATION AGENDA

### Information: 7.01 – UUHC Financial Pulse

### Information: 7.02 – L.S. Skaggs Presidential Endowed Chair in Business Leadership in the David Eccles School of Business

### Information 7.03 – Sponsored Projects Report

A copy of these reports are included as Appendix XXIII – XXV with the official minutes of this meeting and can be obtained through the Office of the Secretary to the University or online (in BoardDocs) with the associated agenda items.

## ADJOURN

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

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

At 8:31 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on February 10, 2026.

Signed by: Christopher Nelson

Date approved: 10 February 2026

