

**UTAH TECH UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Friday, January 30, 2026
Zions Bank Room, Holland Centennial Commons 537

DRAFT MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Patricia Jones Horton, Vice Chair
Natalie Ashby
Rick Atkin
Shawn Guzman
Shellsea Ramirez
Lincoln Nadauld
Dan Nielson
Kristan Norton-Ipson

TRUSTEE NOT PRESENT

Richard Holmes
Deven Macdonald, Chair

UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Dr. TJ Bliss, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Shane B. Smeed, President
Kiran Andrews, Executive Assistant for Academic Affairs
Christine Arlotti, Assistant to the VP for Administration and Policy
Del Beatty, Vice President of Student Affairs
Ken Beazer, Director of Athletics
Lance Brown, Chief Advancement Officer
Jennifer Ciaccio, Faculty Senate President
Matt Devore, Staff Association Past President
Isaac Esplin, Media Systems Coordinator
Bryant Flake, Executive Director of Budget and Planning Operations
Mandy Gulbrandsen, Assistant to the President
Chris Guymon, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Joni Hale, Director of Scholarships
Samira Hall, Asst. Director of Curriculum and Graduate Studies Operations
Scott Jensen, Assistant Vice President of Auxiliary and Business Services
Paul Morris, Vice President of Administrative Affairs
Natalie Nelson, General Counsel
Michael Pinegar, Executive Director of Risk, Compliance, and Audit
Helen Tate, Associate Provost for Academic Success/Dean University
College
Henrie Walton, Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Mark Walton, Chief Information Officer
Suzette Yaezenko, Chief Human Resources Officer

EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.

At 9:05 a.m., Vice Chair Patricia Horton Jones asked for a motion to close Executive Session. Motion to close Executive Session made by Trustee Shawn Guzman; Motion Seconded by Trustee Dan Nielson. Motion Approved.

GENERAL SESSION

WELCOME

At 9:15 a.m., Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton welcomed attendees, including Utah System of Higher Education Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs Dr. TJ Bliss and new UTSA President Shellsea Ramirez.

Mission, Vision, and Values

Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked attendees to reflect on Utah Tech's mission, vision, and values during each Board of Trustees meeting.

Introduction and Swearing-in of new Trustee Shellsea Ramirez, UTSA Student Body President

Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton thanked Trustee Andy Hunter, former UTSA Student Body President (not present) for his service and commitment to Utah Tech University. Notary Public Christine Arlotti administered the Oath of Office to Utah Tech Student Association President Shellsea Ramirez, formally swearing her in as the student representative on the Utah Tech University Board of Trustees.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes for November 21, 2025

Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Motion to approve the November 21, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve the Minutes by Trustee Rick Atkin. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Trustee Lincoln Nadauld Seconded the Motion. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor to say, "Aye," and those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Policies (Chair of the Board of Trustees Policy Committee Shawn Guzman and Policy Owners)

Chair Shawn Guzman introduced the policies for approval and invited the policy owners to present each policy to the Board of Trustees.

109: Institutional Neutrality (New)

General Counsel Natalie Nelson presented Policy 109: Institutional Neutrality (New) to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a

Motion to approve Policy 109: Institutional Neutrality (New). Motion to approve made by Trustee Kristan Norton-Ipson. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Rick Atkin. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

136: Private Use of University Property (Revision)

General Counsel Natalie Nelson presented Policy 136: Private Use of University Property (Revision) to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve Policy 136: Private Use of University Property (Revision). Motion to approve made by Trustee Lincoln Nadauld. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Shawn Guzman. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

223: Travel (Revision)

Vice President of Administrative Affairs Paul Morris presented Policy 223: Travel (Revision) to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve Policy 223: Travel (Revision). Motion to approve made by Trustee Lincoln Nadauld. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Rick Atkin. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

502: Registration (Revision)

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented Policy 502: Registration (Revision) to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve Policy 502: Registration (Revision). Motion to approve made by Trustee Rick Atkin. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Natalie Ashby. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

505: Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Waivers (Revision)

Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing Brian Sandusky and Director of Scholarships Joni Hale presented Policy 505: Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Waivers (Revision) to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve Policy 505: Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Waivers (Revision). Motion to approve made by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Lincoln Nadauld. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Early and Phased Retirement

Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton invited Chief Human Resources Officer Suzette Yaezenko to present the following Early and Phased Retirement Requests:

- Dr. Karen L. Bauer, D.A., Professor of Biology, Biological Science Faculty, for Early Retirement
- Dennis J. Martinez, Professor of Creative Arts Faculty, for Phased Retirement
- Diana Maughan, Interim Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, for Phased Retirement
- Dr. Tiffany L. Petersen, Professor of Nursing Faculty, for Early Retirement

Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Motion to approve the Early and Phased Retirement Requests. Motion to approve made by Trustee Shawn Guzman. Motion to Second made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (Chair of the Academic Committee Lincoln Nadauld, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon)

Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton invited Chair of the Academic Committee Lincoln Nadauld and Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon to present the Academic proposals.

Sabbatical

Dr. Adriana Brandt, Interim Dean for College of Education, Sabbatical

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Sabbatical Request for Dr. Adriana Brandt, Interim Dean for College of Education, to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Motion to approve the Sabbatical Request. Motion to approve made by Trustee Lincoln Nadauld. Motion to Second made by Trustee Kristan Norton-Ipson. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of Intermediate Review/Continued Probationary Status; Rank Advancement; Tenure; and Post-Probation Review

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Intermediate Review/Continued Probationary Status; Rank Advancement; Tenure; and Post-Probation Review to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Motion to approve the Intermediate Review/Continued Probationary Status; Rank Advancement; Tenure; and Post-Probation Review. Motion to approve made by Trustee Lincoln Nadauld. Motion to Second made by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion

on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

New Program

MS in Genomics

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the new MS in Genomics for approval to the Board of Trustees. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the new MS in Genomics. Motion to approve made by Trustee Lincoln Nadauld. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Shawn Guzman. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

New Certificates

Undergraduate Certificate in AI and Machine Learning

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Undergraduate Certificate in AI and Machine Learning. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the Undergraduate Certificate in AI and Machine Learning. Motion to approve made by Trustee Shawn Guzman. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Undergraduate Laboratory Quality Assurance and Quality Control Certificate

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Undergraduate Laboratory Quality Assurance and Quality Control Certificate. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the Undergraduate Laboratory Quality Assurance and Quality Control Certificate. Motion to approve made by Trustee Shawn Guzman. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Lincoln Nadauld. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

New Minor

Minor in Nutrition

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the New Minor in Nutrition. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the New Minor in Nutrition. Motion to approve made by Trustee Rick Atkin. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

New Emphasis

Integrated Studies in Nutrition

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Integrated Studies in Nutrition Emphasis. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the Integrated Studies in Nutrition Emphasis. Motion to approve made by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Natalie Ashby. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

New Non-Credit Bearing Certificate

Variant Science

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the New Non-Credit Bearing Certificate in Variant Science to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the New Non-Credit Bearing Certificate in Variant Science. Motion to approve made by Trustee Kristan Norton-Ipson. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Lincoln Nadauld. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Credit Change

Biology Major from 27 to 28 Credits

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Credit Change for Biology Major from 27 to 28 Credits to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the Credit Change for Biology Major. Motion to approve made by Trustee Rick Atkin. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Natalie Ashby. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Program Suspension

Applied and Computational Math – Scientific Computing (Emphasis only)

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Program Suspension for Applied and Computation Math – Scientific Computing (Emphasis only) to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the Program Suspension. Motion to approve made by Trustee Rick Atkin. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Lincoln Nadauld. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Mediation Certificate

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Program Suspension for the Mediation Certificate to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the Program Suspension. Motion to approve made by Trustee Kristan Norton Ipson. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Rick Atkin. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Program Termination

Cryptography I Certificate

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Program Termination for Cryptography I Certificate to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the Program Termination. Motion to approve made by Trustee Shawn Guzman. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Cryptography II Certificate

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Program Termination for Cryptography II Certificate to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the Program Termination. Motion to approve made by Trustee Shawn Guzman. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Rick Atkin. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Modeling and Simulation Certificate

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Program Termination for Modeling and Simulation Certificate to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the Program Termination. Motion to approve made by Trustee Rick Atkin. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Natalie Ashby. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Course Fees

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Course Fees for approval to the Board of Trustees. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Motion to approve the Course Fees. Motion to approve made by Trustee

Shellsea Ramirez. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Lincoln Nadauld. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," and those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Title III Strengthening Institutions Program Grant (Informational Item)

Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton introduced the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program Grant as an Informational Item. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton said the grant enhances services for low-income students through Supplemental Instruction and Open Educational Resources. No Action.

BREAK: 11:22 a.m., - 11:30 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS (Chair of the Investment Committee Rick Atkin, Vice President of Administrative Affairs Paul Morris, and Assistant Vice President of Auxiliary and Business Services Scott Jensen)

Investment Report

Vice President of Administrative Affairs Paul Morris and Assistant Vice President of Auxiliary and Business Services Scott Jensen presented the Investment Report to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the Investment Report. Motion to approve called by Trustee Rick Atkin. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion to the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," and those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT (Chief Advancement Officer Lance Brown)

Donation Report

Chief Advancement Officer Lance Brown presented the Donation Report to the Board of Trustees for approval. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton called for a Motion to approve the Donation Report. Motion to approve called by Trustee Lincoln Nadauld. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Rick Atkin. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion to the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," and those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Consent Calendar (Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton)

Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton invited President Shane B. Smeed, Faculty Senate President Jennifer Ciaccio, Staff Association Past President Matt Devore, and UTSA Student Body President and Trustee Shellsea Ramirez to provide brief remarks, summarizing their reports to the Board of Trustees.

Presentation

Associate Commissioner of Academics at Utah System of Higher Education, Dr. TJ Bliss, presented the "2025 Program Report" to the Board of Trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee (Chair of the Executive Committee Deven Macdonald): No update.

Academic Committee (Chair of the Academic Committee Lincoln Nadauld): Chair Lincoln Nadauld said the Academic Committee would be meeting prior to the next Board of Trustees meeting.

Audit Committee (Chair of the Audit Committee Richard Holmes): Trustee Kristan Norton Ipson reported on behalf of Chair Richard Holmes. The Audit Committee had met and went over some audits and talked about audits that were coming forward.

Dixie Technical College (Dixie Technical College Board Member Dan Nielson): Dixie Technical College Board Member Dan Nielson reported that President Rushton appreciates the partnership with Utah Tech University.

Heritage Committee (Chair of the Heritage Committee Natalie Ashby): No update.

Honoree Selection Committee (Chair of the Honoree Selection Committee Kristan Norton-Ipson) Chair Kristan Norton-Ipson reported that the committee had not had any meetings.

Investment Committee (Chair of the Investment Committee Rick Atkin): Chair Rick Atkin reported that the Investment Committee had a great meeting, and they planned to meet at least three or four times this year.

Policy Committee (Chair of the Policy Committee Shawn Guzman): Chair Shawn Guzman provided remarks during the policy presentation, so he waved his time during this portion of the meeting.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton thanked everyone for attending the January 30, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

At 12:05 p.m., Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Motion to Second made by Trustee Guzman. Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Vice Chair Patricia Jones Horton asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," and those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Dan

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Fire and Ice Gala: Friday, March 20, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., Burns Arena
- Trailblazer Awards: Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Eccles Mainstage
- President's Awards Dinner: Thursday, April 23, 6:00 p.m., Gardner Ballroom

- Board of Trustees Meeting: Friday, April 24, 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Zions Bank Room
- Commencement: Wednesday, May 6, and Thursday, May 7, time TBA, Burns Arena