

Minutes of March 26, 2026; 9:00 a.m.  
School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration Board Nominating Committee  
310 S Main Street, STE 1275, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

**Committee Members Attending:** Blaine Walker, Brian Somers, Louie Cononelos, Mike Canning, Paula Plant, Richard Ellis, Rikki Hrenko-Browning, Roger Barrus, Tammy Pearson, Wade Garrett

**Absent Committee Members:** Brad Benz

**Staff Support Attending In-Person:** Kim Christy, Jessie Stuart, Liz Mumford

**1. Welcome** The School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) Board Nominating Committee meeting commenced at approximately 9:00 a.m. Chair Somers reviewed the process for conducting interviews. The Committee agreed that Chair Somers would call upon individual members to ask questions. Following each interview, the Committee will deliberate briefly before moving to the next candidate.

Four interviews will be conducted today to determine the nominees for the pending vacancy of Bryan Harris on the SITLA Board. Additionally, 12 candidate resumes will be vetted for future interviews on April 17 to fill the seat currently held by Tiffany James.

**2. Closed Session** Chair Somers requested a motion to enter a closed session. Ms. Pearson moved to enter closed session, and Mr. Cononelos seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The Committee entered closed session pursuant to Utah Code §52-4-205(1)(a) to discuss candidates with energy development expertise for the April 17 interviews, and to interview the four candidates with real estate development experience to determine nominees to move forward to the Governor for selection and appointment to the SITLA Board.

### **3. Nominee and Interviewee Selection**

Upon returning to open session, Chair Somers requested motions to nominate candidates to the Governor and to determine the interviewee pool for the second pending vacancy.

- Motion: Commissioner Pearson moved to forward Candidate 1 and Candidate 3 to the Governor for final selection to fill the seat being vacated by Bryan Harris. Ms. Plant seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.
- Motion: Mr. Ellis moved to invite Candidates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 11 for interviews on April 17 for the seat being vacated by Tiffany James. Mr. Cononelos seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Cononelos inquired if the nominee lists for both vacancies would be submitted to the Governor simultaneously. Chair Somers confirmed that the final selections for both the Harris and James vacancies will be sent to the Governor at the same time.

### **4. Adjourn:**

Mr. Barrus motioned to adjourn. The vote was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.