



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026
12:15 – 2:15 pm
Tooele Tech Board Room
88 South Tooele Blvd.
Tooele, UT 84074

MINUTES

Members Present: Lori Haines-Little – Chair, Lynn Jeffers – Vice-chair, Aaron Stagg, Cole Dangerfield, David Douglas, Melissa Rich, Sheldon Birch, Yvonne Nielson

Staff Present: Kent Thygerson, Mark Aiken, Tricia Walker, Tera Porter, Donna Hesleph, James May

Excused: Dave Petersen

Guests: Angie Stallings – USHE Deputy Commissioner, Eric Petersen – USHE Legal Counsel, Ty Dobmann – Tooele Tech 2026 Student of the Year

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Chair Lori Haines-Little welcomed attendees and acknowledged that a quorum was present.

Student Spotlight - Student of the Year

Ty Dobmann was introduced as the 2026 Student of the Year Ambassador. He shared his inspiring journey from semi-pro football to the Tooele Tech Police Academy following a career-ending injury. He highlighted the program's rigor and the vital discipline he gained. Ty is currently a Patrol Deputy for the Tooele County Sheriff's Office and recently passed his field training.

Program Spotlight - Police Academy

Director James May discussed his goal to establish the academy as the premier program in Utah, emphasizing scenario-based training for superior hands-on experience. Recruitment efforts include a "poker-chip" badge with a QR code, which has driven increased demand, allowing the program to run two cohorts per year. Kent Thygerson noted that Director May also provides a security presence on campus and serves as a liaison to local law enforcement.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Calendar

Lori Haines-Little verified that the Board had reviewed the following items:

- November 5, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- November 13, 2025 Executive Meeting Minutes
- Marketing/Recruitment Report
- Investment Report

Sheldon Birch moved to approve the items in the Consent Calendar, seconded by Melissa Rich. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Board Administration

Chair Haines-Little discussed the following topics, seeking Board input:

- **Presidential Search Update** - A committee of employees, board members, students, and community stakeholders is being formed to review resumes and interview candidates.
- **Civics and Values** - Following Governor Cox's vision to enhance civic mindfulness, the Board will continue discussions at the next meeting to refine possible implementation.
- **Board Meeting Schedule** - Consensus was reached to continue meeting at noon.
- **Trustee Support** - The Board was encouraged to leverage college resources and maintain an understanding of offerings to effectively advocate within the community.
- **Annual Mission Statement Evaluation** - As required by COE, the Board reviewed the current mission statement. Despite discussions regarding local vs. state focus, the Board agreed to maintain the current statement without changes.

Finance & Audit

Lynn Jeffers reviewed the **2025-2026 Year-To-Date Financial Report**. Through the first five months, the college is **\$91,021 overspent** due to increased instructional needs from high enrollment and unexpected HVAC/vehicle repairs. The Committee commended the administration for excellent budget execution amidst rapid growth.

Sheldon Birch moved to receive the Year-To-Date Financial Report, seconded by Lori Haines-Little. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Lynn Jeffers reported on the **2025 Internal Audit** (Presidential travel, discretionary funds, and investments), which resulted in zero findings, a reflection of excellent fiscal management.

Cole Dangerfield moved to receive the 2025 Internal Audit, seconded by Sheldon Birch. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Instruction & Student Services

Aaron Stagg discussed the **FY26 2nd Qtr. FTE & Enrollment Report**. The college has moved to FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) reporting to align with USHE standards. Adult enrollment is up 25% (a 35% year-over-year increase) with total college growth at 24%.

Aaron Stagg moved to receive the FY26 2nd Qtr. FTE & Enrollment Report, seconded by Lynn Jeffers. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Aaron explained the **Advanced EMT Program Change** of adding one credit for clinical practice/ride-alongs, bringing the program to seven credits. This \$85 cost increase provides the essential experience requested by local providers.

Sheldon Birch moved to approve the Advanced EMT program to seven credits to include one credit of clinical practice, seconded by Cole Dangerfield. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Aaron presented the **FY27 Program List** with no changes or modifications at this time.

Sheldon Birch moved to approve the FY27 Program List as presented, seconded by Lynn Jeffers. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Aaron noted the following policy updates were for verbiage clarity only, with no substantive changes to the intent:

Admissions & Registration Policy

Student Code of Conduct Policy

Title IX-Prohibiting Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policy

Leave of Absence Policy

Student Grievance Policy

FERPA Policy

David Douglas moved to approve the policy changes as presented, seconded by Lori Haines-Little. **The motion passed unanimously.**

INFORMATION ITEMS

Angie Stallings provided USHE updates to the Board on the inclusion of technical colleges in Utah's **Concurrent Enrollment** program. This marks a major shift in how career pathways are recognized. Traditionally, it focused on degree-granting institutions. This ensures a high school student is gaining college credit that is 100% transferable. She commended Tooele Tech for being the **only institution in USHE to reach 100% program alignment**, setting a statewide benchmark.

Instruction & Student Services

High school IT student Nathaniel Warner was recognized at the **Counselor Appreciation Luncheon** for his 97% attendance and for earning his A+ certification.

New **January cohorts** are launching in Electrical Apprenticeship (18 students) and EMT (11 students). The Nursing Assistant cohort is under evaluation due to low enrollment.

President's Report

Interim President Kent Thygerson highlighted the success of the **Student Champions Gala** and the data-driven **Counselor Appreciation Luncheon**. He reported that the college faces a proposed **5% legislative budget cut** (potentially impacting 4–5 positions). He is advocating for the statute performance/growth funding, as well as capacity funding, to launch the Machining, Auto Tech, and Surgical Tech programs. Melissa Rich emphasized the Board's role in lobbying local representatives regarding legislation impacting technical colleges.

An invitation for questions or comments was offered prior to concluding the meeting. Melissa Rich moved to adjourn, seconded by Lynn Jeffers. **The meeting adjourned at 2:16 pm.**