

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

**Thursday, March 5, 2026**  
Zions Bank Room, Holland Centennial Commons 537

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT**

Deven Macdonald, Chair  
Patricia Jones Horton (Virtual)  
Natalie Ashby  
Rick Atkin (Virtual)  
Richard Holmes  
Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes  
Dan Nielson  
Kristan Norton-Ipson (Virtual)

**TRUSTEES NOT PRESENT**

Shawn Guzman  
Lincoln Nadauld

**UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE**

Vic Hockett, Associate Commissioner of Talent Ready Utah (In-Person)  
Nate Talley, Deputy Commissioner & CFO (Virtual)

**UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT**

Shane B. Smeed, President  
Kiran Andrews, Executive Assistant for Academic Affairs  
Christine Arlotti, Assistant to the VP for Administration and Policy  
Ken Beazer, Director of Athletics  
Lance Brown, Chief Advancement Officer  
Dottie Catlin, Executive Director of Career Services  
Jennifer Ciaccio, Faculty Senate President  
Laralee Davenport, Staff Association President Elect  
Jake Dockery, Guest Services  
Isaac Esplin, Media Systems Coordinator  
Bryant Flake, Executive Director of Budget and Planning Operations  
Sara Gallo, Professor of Dance  
Mandy Gulbrandsen, Assistant to the President  
Chris Guymon, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Jyl Hall, Director of Public Relations  
Samira Hall, Asst. Director of Curriculum and Graduate Studies Operations  
Jeff Jarvis, Dean of the College of the Arts  
Scott Jensen, Assistant Vice President of Auxiliary and Business Services  
Luke Kerouac, Executive Director of Student Engagement & Leadership

Brad Last, Special Assistant to the President for Government and Community Relations  
Stephen Lee, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Tamron Lee, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students  
Paul Morris, Vice President of Administrative Affairs  
Natalie Nelson, General Counsel  
Michael Pinegar, Executive Director of Risk, Compliance, and Audit  
Donald Plumlee, Dean for College of Science, Engineering, and Technology  
Brian Sandusky, Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing  
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. – 8:50 a.m.

At 8:00 a.m., Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Motion to go into Executive Session made by Trustee Dan Nielson; Motion Seconded by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes. Motion Approved.

## **GENERAL SESSION**

### **WELCOME**

At 9:00 a.m., Chair Deven Macdonald welcomed attendees, including Deputy Commissioner & CFO Nate Talley and Associate Commissioner of Talent Ready Utah Vic Hockett.

### **Mission, Vision, and Values**

Chair Deven Macdonald asked attendees to reflect on Utah Tech's mission, vision, and values during each Board of Trustees meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Approval of Minutes for January 30, 2026**

Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Motion to approve the January 30, 2026, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve the Minutes by Trustee Natalie Ashby. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Trustee Dan Nielson Seconded the Motion. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor to say, "Aye," and those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

### **Policies (Trustee Dan Nielson and Policy Owners)**

Trustee Dan Nielson introduced the policies for approval and invited policy owners to present their policies to the Board of Trustees.

#### **465: Video Surveillance (Revision)**

Vice President of Administrative Affairs Paul Morris presented Policy 465: Video Surveillance (Revision) to the Board of Trustees for approval, with an amendment to the policy to add representatives from Human Resources and General Counsel to the Video Surveillance Review Committee. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve Policy 465: Video Surveillance (Revision) with the before stated amendment to the policy. Motion to approve made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

#### **552: Student Conduct Code (Revision)**

Dean of Students Tamron Lee presented Policy 552: Student Conduct Code (Revision) to the Board of Trustees for approval. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve Policy 552: Student Conduct Code (Revision). Motion to approve made by Trustee Patricia Jones Horton. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Richard Holmes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

#### **542: General Student Fees (New)**

Executive Director of Student Engagement & Leadership Luke Kerouac presented Policy 542: General Student Fees (New) to the Board of Trustees for approval. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve Policy 542: General Student Fees (New). Motion to approve made by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Rick Atkin. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Chair Deven Macdonald invited Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon to present the following Academic proposals.

#### New Programs

##### **AA/AS in Dance**

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the new AA/AS in Dance for approval to the Board of Trustees. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve the new AA/AS in Dance. Motion to approve made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Patricia Jones Horton. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

### **AA/AS in Music**

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the new AA/AS in Music for approval to the Board of Trustees. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve the new AA/AS in Music. Motion to approve made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Kristan Norton-Ipson. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

### **BAP in Information Technology**

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the new BAP in Information Technology for approval to the Board of Trustees. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve the new BAP in Information Technology. Motion to approve made by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Patricia Jones Horton. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

### **MS in Artificial Intelligence**

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon informed the Board of Trustees that the MS in Artificial Intelligence would be presented for approval at the April 24, Board of Trustees meeting. Action: None

### Credit Changes

#### **Computer Engineering, B.S.**

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Credit Change for Computer Engineering, B.S. to the Board of Trustees for approval. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve the Credit Change for Computer Engineering, B.S. Motion to approve made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Richard Holmes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

#### **Mechanical Engineering, B.S.**

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Credit Change for Mechanical Engineering, B.S. to the Board of Trustees for approval. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve the Credit Change for Mechanical Engineering, B.S. Motion to approve made by Trustee Richard Holmes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Natalie Ashby. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

### **Electrical Engineering, B.S.**

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Credit Change for Electrical Engineering, B.S. to the Board of Trustees for approval. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve the Credit Change for Electrical Engineering, B.S. Motion to approve made by Trustee Patricia Jones Horton. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

### **Mechatronics, B.S.**

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Credit Change for Mechatronics, B.S. to the Board of Trustees for approval. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve the Credit Change for Mechatronics, B.S. Motion to approve made by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

### **History, Social Science Teaching Emphasis**

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Credit Change for History, Social Science Teaching Emphasis to the Board of Trustees for approval. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve the Credit Change for History, Social Science Teaching Emphasis. Motion to approve made by Trustee Patricia Jones Horton. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Richard Holmes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

### Name Change

### **History – History and Social Science Teaching Emphasis to History, Social Science Teaching Emphasis**

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Name Change for History – History and Social Science Teaching Emphasis to History, Social Science Teaching Emphasis to the Board of Trustees for approval. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve the Name Change for History – History and Social Science Teaching Emphasis to History, Social Science Teaching Emphasis. Motion to approve made by Trustee Patricia Jones Horton. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Richard Holmes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

## Program Suspension

### **AS in Biotechnology**

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Program Suspension for AS in Biotechnology to the Board of Trustees for approval. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve the Program Suspension. Motion to approve made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald 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. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Motion to approve the Course Fees. Motion to approve made by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Patricia Jones Horton. Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," and those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

### **Request for Approval of Faculty Emeritus Status**

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chris Guymon presented the Request for Approval of Faculty Emeritus Status to the Board of Trustees. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Motion to approve the Request for Approval of Faculty Emeritus Status. Motion to approve made by Trustee Natalie Ashby. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, "Aye," and those not in favor to say, "No." Action: Motion approved unanimously.

**BREAK:** 10:15 a.m. - 10:25 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)

Trustee and UTSA Student Body President Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes presented on the Academic Year (AY) 2026–2027 Student Fees process and proposed changes prior to the vote. Additionally, the Vice President of Administrative Affairs presented on the Academic Year (AY) 2026–2027 Tuition Proposal before the vote.

### **AY 2026-2027 Student Fees**

Trustee and UTSA Student Body President Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes presented the AY 2026-2027 Student Fees to the Board of Trustees for approval. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Motion to approve the AY 2026-2027 Student Fees. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Rick Atkin. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing

none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion say, “aye,” those not in favor say, “no.” Action: Motion approved unanimously.

### **AY 2026-2027 Tuition Proposal**

Paul Morris, Vice President of Administrative Affairs, presented the AY 2026-2027 Tuition Proposal to the Board of Trustees for approval. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Motion to approve the Tuition Proposal. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Patricia Jones Horton. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion on the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion say, “aye,” those not in favor say, “no.” Action: Motion approved unanimously.

### **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. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve the Investment Report. Motion to approve called by Trustee Rick Atkin. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Dan Nielson. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion to the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald 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. Chair Deven Macdonald called for a Motion to approve the Donation Report. Motion to approve called by Trustee Richard Holmes. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a Second to the Motion. Motion to Second made by Trustee Natalie Nashby. Chair Deven Macdonald asked for a discussion to the Motion. Hearing none, Chair Deven Macdonald asked those in favor of the Motion to say, “Aye,” and those not in favor to say, “No.” Action: Motion approved unanimously.

#### **Consent Calendar** (Chair Deven Macdonald)

Chair Deven Macdonald invited President Shane B. Smeed, Faculty Senate President Jennifer Ciaccio, Staff Association President Elect Laralee Davenport, and UTSA Student Body President and Trustee Shellsea Ramirez Fuentes to provide brief remarks, summarizing their reports to the Board of Trustees.

#### **Legislative Update**

Special Assistant to the President for Government and Community Relations Brad Last presented an update on the 2026 Legislative Session to the Board of Trustees. Chair Deven Macdonald thanked him for all the work he had done during the Legislative Session.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive Committee** (Chair of the Executive Committee Deven Macdonald): Chair Deven Macdonald said the Executive Committee had met last week.

**Academic Committee** (Chair of the Academic Committee Lincoln Nadauld): No update.

**Audit Committee** (Chair of the Audit Committee Richard Holmes): Chair Richard Holmes reported that the next Audit Committee meeting would be held on March 18, 2026.

**Dixie Technical College** (Dixie Technical College Board Member Dan Nielson): Dixie Technical College Board Member Dan Nielson reported that the Dixie Technical College Board would be meeting at the end of March 2026.

**Heritage Committee** (Chair of the Heritage Committee Natalie Ashby): As Trustee Natalie Ashby was unable to attend the last Heritage Committee meeting, she invited Heritage Committee member and Trustee Rick Atkin to provide an update to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Rick Atkin reported that during the Heritage Committee's last meeting, the Committee created subcommittees dedicated to specific priorities and activities. The three subcommittees identified were Community and Campus Outreach, Marketing, and Events and Programming.

**Honoree Selection Committee** (Chair of the Honoree Selection Committee Kristan Norton-Ipson) Chair Kristan Norton-Ipson announced two upcoming events: The Trailblazer Awards on April 9, and President's Award Dinner on April 23.

**Investment Committee** (Chair of the Investment Committee Rick Atkin): Chair Rick Atkin reported that the Investment Committee had met in January and February, and the next meeting would be held in April. Chair Rick Atkin expressed enthusiasm for Utah Tech Foundation's participation in the Investment Committee.

**Policy Committee** (Chair of the Policy Committee Shawn Guzman): Trustee Dan Nielson thanked the Policy Steering Committee and recognized all the work being done on policy at Utah Tech.

### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Chair Deven Macdonald thanked everyone for attending the March 5, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

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

## **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
- 2026 Commencement – Burns Arena
  - Associate Degree Ceremony – Wednesday, May 6, 9:00 a.m.
  - College of Humanities & Social Sciences and College of the Arts – Wednesday, May 6, 2:00 p.m.
  - College of Health Sciences and College of Education – Thursday, May 7, 9:00 a.m.
  - College of Science, Engineering & Technology and College of Business – Thursday, May 7, 2:00 p.m.

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