



USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Friday, January 16, 2026, 9:00 AM MST to 12:00 PM MST

USU Logan Campus and via Zoom:

<https://usu.zoom.us/j/85760162215?pwd=JppNlntXe2hGeAUFET60rZsoi0tJkl.1>

Attendance

Trustees:

Tessa White, Chair

Gina Gagon, Vice Chair

Ryan Dent

Brett Hugie

Luke Johnson

Dave Petersen

Jacey Skinner

Brandon Sorensen

Clark Whitworth (virtual)

David Huntsman (virtual)

Kacie Malouf (absent)

University Representatives Present:

Lisa Berreau

Janalyn Brown

Steve Campbell

Dave Cowley

Amanda DeRito (virtual)

Jared Gerreau

Crystal Giordano (virtual)

Haley Klaassen

Nicole Laroque

Mica McKinney

Brad Mortensen

Kristian Olsen (virtual)

Jessica Oyler

Bill Plate

Larry Smith (virtual)

Brian Steed (virtual)

Cam Walker

Matt White

Courtney White

Ken White

Kris Winter

Devin Wiser

John O'Neil

Jeff Aird

Nicole Vouvalis (virtual)

James Taylor (virtual)

Cynthia Tsosie

Amber Buatte (virtual)

Devin Hansen (virtual)

Giana Pugh

Other:

John Ferry

TJ Bliss, USHE

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order

9:00 AM

Presenter: Chair Tessa White

Tessa White welcomed all attendees and reviewed the three guiding principles she believes are essential for the trustees to remember: 1) transparency, 2) partnerships, and 3) timeliness.

2. Closed Session

9:05 AM

Motion for Closed Session:

Vice Chair Gina Gagon moved that in accordance with 52-4-205 of the Utah Code that the Trustees go into a closed Executive Session for the sole purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, physical or mental health of individuals, pending or reasonably imminent litigation, and the possible sale of real property. Motion seconded by Trustee Dave Petersen. Roll call vote was initiated by Chair Tessa White and taken by Secretary Janalyn

Brown. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the meeting moved to a closed session which commenced at 10:00 am.

Attendance

Trustees:

Tessa White, Chair	Luke Johnson	Clark Whitworth (virtual)
Gina Gagon, Vice Chair	Dave Petersen	David Huntsman (virtual)
Ryan Dent	Jacey Skinner	Kacie Malouf (absent)
Brett Hugie	Brandon Sorensen	

University Representatives Present:

Janalyn Brown	Jessica Oyler
Brad Mortensen	Mica McKinney

Motion to adjourn Closed Session:

Motion to adjourn the closed session was made by Vice Chair Gina Gagon and seconded by Trustee Ryan Dent. Voting was unanimous and the closed session concluded at 10:00 am.

3. Committee Reports

10:00 AM

3.1. Executive (see report)

Presenter: Chair Tessa White

3.2. Audit, Risk and Compliance (see report)

Presenter: Trustee Ryan Dent

3.3. Research and Academic Approval (see report)

Presenter: Trustee Gina Gagon

3.4. Athletics (see report)

Presenter: Trustee Clark Whitworth

3.5. Honorary Degrees, Awards, and Recognition (see report)

Presenter: Trustee David Petersen

4. President's Report (see report)

10:20 AM

Presenter: President Brad Mortensen

5. Strategic Agenda

5.1. Research Report (see presentation)

10:25 AM

Presenter: VP Lisa Berreau

The Board received an update from Utah State University Vice President for Research Lisa Berreau. She highlighted the institution's growing research strength and funding, noting its land-grant mission and core areas including space and defense, engineering, natural resources, agriculture, biotechnology, and health. She reported that average annual awards have risen from \$108 million to \$144 million despite federal policy disruptions and declining appropriations and staffing at agencies such as NSF, DOE, NIH, and NASA. Berreau emphasized AI's role in accelerating research, expanding collaboration, and increasing competitiveness, while also stressing the need for stronger community engagement and

statewide infrastructure. Additional updates included an NSF proposal to support faster research translation, development of CMMC systems to expand defense-related work amid increasing federal defense budgets, and USU's receipt of Carnegie Community Engaged Recognition.

5.2. Athletics Report (see presentation)

10:51 AM

Presenter: VP, AD Cam Walker

The Board received an update on USU Athletics from Vice President and Director of Athletics Cam Walker. He outlined opportunities created by market shifts, emphasizing talent acquisition, brand-building, and increased revenue through media exposure and athletic success. He noted that investment in athletics can drive major growth in applications, revenues, and ticket sales, and stressed the need for experienced senior leadership. Key initiatives include boosting ticket sales, sponsorships, and donations, improving planning to avoid revenue loss during student breaks, streamlining fundraising, and maximizing facility use for events. He asked trustees to help identify blind spots and support upcoming changes, highlighting the importance of branding, data-driven storytelling, and balancing short-term gains with long-term control when considering investment strategies.

6. Consent Agenda

11:19 AM

6.1. Approve: 11.7.25 USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

6.2. Approve: 12.5.25 USU Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

6.3. Approve: Capital Improvement Priority List for FY27

6.4. Approve: Report of Institutional Discretionary Funds for FY25

6.5. Approve: 2026 Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degrees

6.6. Approve: University Policies

6.6.1. 4100: Research

6.6.2. 4101: Sponsored Programs

6.6.3. 4110: Research Misconduct

6.7. Approve: Bad Debt Write-offs

Motion:

Trustee Brandon Sorensen moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Dave Petersen seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

7. Action Agenda

7.1. Approve: Disposal of 19.5 Acres of Agricultural Property (see report)

11:20 AM

Presenter: VP Dave Cowley

The Board received an update on the proposed disposal of 19.5 acres of agricultural property. This donated land has been used for 20 years for feed production. The property is

small and requires the movement of large equipment from other properties to plant and harvest. The movement of equipment is inefficient and has become a safety concern. It is proposed that this property be sold, with the proceeds used to invest in and increase production at one of the larger USU properties.

Motion:

Pursuant to USHE Rule 704, Trustee Luke Johnson moved that the Utah State University Board of Trustees approve the disposal of 19.5 acres of agricultural property, subject to the completion of a secondary appraisal. Trustee Ryan Dent seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

7.2. Approve: President's Office Proposed Budget for FY26 (see report)

11:25 AM

Presenter: VP Dave Cowley

The Board received an update on the President's Office proposed budget for FY26. The proposed budget has been reviewed by the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee previously. Board members expressed appreciation for the transparency.

Motion:

Pursuant to USU Policy 1220, Trustee Dave Petersen moved that the Utah State University Board of Trustees approve the President's Office Proposed Budget for FY26, as presented. Trustee Brett Hugie seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

8. Student Resolution of Commendation (see commendation)

11:39 AM

Presenter: Trustee Brandon Sorensen

9. Resolution of Commendation and Appreciation for Trustee John Ferry (see commendation)

11:45 AM

Presenter: Chair Tessa White

10. Information Agenda

10.1. 2026-2027 USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Schedule

10.2. 2025 Advancement Endowment Report

10.3. 2025 Advancement Winter Report

10.4. Report of Investments for August 2025

10.5. Report of Investments for September 2025

10.6. Report of Investments for October 2025

10.7. Upcoming: USU Presentation (USU Legislative Audit, Higher Ed Compensation Process, Outstanding RFAs) - Monday, February 9th

11. Adjourn

11:55 PM

Motion:

Trustee Ryan Dent moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Brandon Sorensen seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned.

Tessa White

Tessa White, Chair

Janalyn Brown

Janalyn Brown, Secretary

3/20/2026

Date Approved

