



Board of Trustees Meeting

Miller Administration Building - Betty Hess Lampros Boardroom - 319

3850 S Dixon Parkway, Ogden, UT 84408

Zoom | ID: 815 9633 1588 | Password: 299962

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 | 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

VISION

We will be a leader in transforming lives by meeting all students where they are, challenging and guiding them to achieve their goals academically and in life.

MISSION

We transform lives and communities by educating students of all identities and backgrounds. We nurture student success through a supportive environment, individualized pathways, meaningful personal connections with faculty and staff, teaching and experiential learning, research, and civic engagement.

Trustee Members

Chair Keith Titus

Vice Chair Lori Belnap Pehrson

Ally Isom

Brad Wilson

Matt Dixon

Brent Bishop

Casey Hill

Monet Maggelet (Zoom)

Mia Foster (Zoom)

Excused

Tammy Gallegos

Attendees

Leslie Durham, Interim President

Brent Horn, Interim Provost

Ali Threet, Interim VP for Student Access and Success

Betsy Mennell, VP for University Advancement

Alema Leota, General Counsel

Mark Halverson, VP for Administrative Services

Bryan Magaña, Executive Director for Marketing Communications

Rachel Badali, Director of Public Relations
Geoff Landward, USHE Commissioner
Marc Gangwer, Staff Advisory Chair/Financial Aid Director
Jed Spencer, Executive Director for Financial Aid
Sari Byerly, AVP for Student Pathways
Steven Richardson, Director for Strategic Initiatives
Tanner Boyd, Deputy General Counsel
Savannah Evans, Executive Assistant
Heather Chapman, Senior Director for Data and Analytics
Tammy Olsen, Executive Director for High School Dual Enrollment

Zoom Attendees

Jason Francis, Faculty Senate Chair/Professor, Health Sciences Librarian
Brian Shuppy, USHE Senior Assistant Commissioner

Agenda Items

Call to Order and Identification of Any Potential or Perceived Conflicts of Interest
Vice Chair Pehrson called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. She welcomed all in attendance, including Zoom. Vice Chair Pehrson then asked for the identification of any potential or perceived conflicts of interest after reviewing the agenda. Hearing none, the meeting proceeded.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes (January 23, 2026)

The Board reviewed the minutes from the January 23, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting.

Action: Trustee Ally Isom moved to approve the Board of Trustees meeting minutes from January 23, 2026, with a second by Trustee Dixon. The motion passed unanimously.

Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule, May 20, 2026 9:30 a.m. to May 21, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
Due to meeting conflicts with the May 20, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting, a new proposed date and time of May 21, 2026 was offered as a new date to meet.

Action: Chair Titus moved to approve the new Board of Trustees meeting date from May 20, 2026, 9:30 a.m. to May 21, 2026, 9:00 a.m. due to meeting conflicts, with a second by Trustee Isom. The motion passed unanimously.

2026-27 WSU Tuition and Fee Adjustments Formal Written Proposal

Interim President Leslie Durham provided the following key updates and financial requests from WSU's proposal for the upcoming academic year.

- **Tuition Differential for Early Credits:**
 - No tuition increases for undergraduate resident and non-resident students who have completed fewer than 59 credits.

- By holding the Associate-level tuition flat, the university creates an anticipated cost saving of \$312 per year for students in their first 60 credits compared to the projected cost of the full four-year rate.
 - **Tuition Increase Request:**
 - A 3% increase is proposed for upper-division undergraduate and graduate degrees. This equates to approximately \$88.55 per semester for resident students.
 - 1.92% of this increase is required to cover the university's 25% share of the state-mandated compensation match.
 - The remaining 1.08% covers rising operational costs, a state-required data privacy program, and central scheduling.
 - **Elimination of Developmental Math Fees:**
 - The university is moving developmental math costs from student course fees to the base budget.
 - **Student General Fees:**
 - A 2.9% increase (approximately \$11.84 per semester) was requested after a collaborative process with student leadership.
 - **Performance Funding:**
 - The university's performance funding request of \$186,000 was fully funded.
- Action:** Trustee Ally Isom moved to approve the 2026-27 WSU Trustee and Fee Adjustment documents listed in the agenda packet, with a second from Trustee Matt Dixon. The motion passed unanimously

Information

Special Topic: Enrollment

Ali Threet, Interim VP for Student Access and Success, Tammy Olsen, Executive Director for High School Dual Enrollment, Heather Chapman, Senior Director for Data and Analytics, Sari Byerly, AVP for Student Pathways, and Jed Spencer, Executive Director of Financial Aid, presented an update on the university's progress regarding WSU's enrollment goals.

- **High School Dual Enrollment (Tammy Olsen):** The university is shifting its narrative from pushing high school students to earn full associate's degrees to focusing on intentional, stackable certificates. This prevents wasted credits and provides better pathways. Academic advising has been successfully embedded directly into local high schools.
- **Student Onboarding (Sari Byerly):** To combat "summer melt," the university implemented mandatory orientation and new student advising. Previously, only 35% of students who engaged with optional modules enrolled. Now, 89.5% of students who complete the mandatory process enroll. This initiative has also shown a 1.5% positive difference in fall-to-fall retention.
- **Data & Analytics (Heather Chapman):** Retention and graduation metrics are seeing significant, long-term improvement.

- **Retention:** First-time, full-time retention has grown from 60% to 67.3% (closing in on the 70% goal). First-time retention for *all* students (including part-time) has improved by 5 percentage points to 58.7%.
- **Graduation:** Over a five-year period, the 6-year IPEDS graduation rate improved by 10 percentage points. While overall enrollment grew by 19% over the last decade, degrees awarded increased by 48%, demonstrating the success of stackable credentials.
- **Financial Aid (Jed Spencer):** Simplified FAFSA applications have led to more students qualifying for Pell Grants. The university also implemented four-year award commitments so students know their funding upfront. Additionally, the Catapult Scholarship targets seniors who run out of Pell Grant funding in their final semester, helping them cross the finish line to graduation.

Strategic Plan Update

Interim Provost Brent Horn and VP Ali Threet provided an update on the data collection and framework development for Weber State University's upcoming strategic plan, emphasizing that all future initiatives and funding requests must strictly align with and be measured against the new goals. To foster better teamwork across departments, the plan aims to break down silos by mapping the university's foundational pillars directly to cross-collaborative efforts. This strategy will integrate external mandates, such as performance metrics set by the state legislature that track students earning their first 30 credit hours. The presenters clarified that their current process acts more like a qualitative research project, where they are crowdsourcing ideas to identify recurring themes. Ultimately, their objective is not to author the final document, but to synthesize this data and provide it as a comprehensive recommendation for the incoming university president to review and finalize. The meeting concluded on a positive note regarding the state legislature's recent approach, which recognizes that different institutions have unique missions and should therefore be evaluated using tailored metrics rather than a one-size-fits-all standard.

Weber State University Reports

President's Report

President Durham introduced new Public Relations Director, Rachel Badali. Rachel provided brief background about herself, and she emphasized her personal connection to the university and her goal to be proactive, persistent, and authentic in sharing the institution's impact.

President Durham then reminded attendees about WSU's graduation taking place in April, in emphasizing graduation as one of the most important events of the year.

Presidential Leadership Fellow Veronica Lajarthe, an international senior from Paraguay majoring in microbiology, shared her story. She highlighted her extensive campus involvement including roles as a career mentor, Rotaract VP, and peer mentor, and shared her goal of pursuing a Ph.D.

in bioscience to bring microbiological expertise back to her home country.

President Durham concluded the report by expressing gratitude between the university leaders and Trustee Casey Hill regarding a successful 45-day legislative session. Trustee Hill noted the impressive level of support Weber State and its president have from state leadership.

Alumni Association Report

Trustee Dixon provided a brief update on upcoming alumni group events and fundraising efforts, highlighting the following items:

- H. Aldous Dixon Awards, March 23, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
- Day of Giving: April 9, 2026-April 10, 2026, with a donation link included in the report.
- June Golf Tournament: The purpose of this fundraiser is to raise funds for scholarships. The goal is to match or exceed last year's total of around \$75,000.

Faculty Senate Report

Faculty Senate Chair Jason Francis noted that elections for the Faculty Senate chair and vice chair are taking place and will finish by the end of March 18, 2026, and the results will be shared with the Faculty Senate on March 19, 2026.

Staff Advisory Council

Staff Advisory Chair (SAC), Marc Gangwer, provided a brief update that SAC elections are coming and that emails for nominee interest and secure supervisor support are planned for later in the month. Elections will begin on the first Monday in April. He also highlighted the Super Staff Awards event, recognizing 12 outstanding staff members. Vice Chair Lori Belnap Pehrson provided feedback that she appreciated the nominations of the winners being included to the SAC report, noting that it helps everyone learn more about individuals across campus.

Weber State University Student Association Report

Trustee Mia Foster directed the group to the written report for events, and highlighted the "Pizza with the Prez" event has currently served 1,000 students overall. She provided a brief summary of the survey provided to students, noting that it tracks valuable insights including desired campus events, student barriers, and awareness of campus resources.

Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed in the packet without discussion.

Business Committee

Action Items: Trustee Dixon

- a. Monthly Investment Report (December 2025/January 2026)
- b. Quarterly Investment Report

- c. Investment Committee Report
- d. Audit Committee Report

Action: Trustee Brent Bishop moved to approve the Monthly Investment Report (December 2025-January 2026), Quarterly Investment Report, Investment Committee Report, and Audit Committee Report, with a second from Trustee Dixon. The motion passed unanimously.

The following items were noted for information

- a. Financial Reports (December 2025/January 2026)
- b. Composite Financial Index
- c. Special Topic: Space Utilization
- d. Business Committee Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2026

Academic Policy Committee

Action Items: Vice Chair Pehrson

- a. Policies
 - i. PPM 8-8, Credit for Time Served in Rank at Accredited Institutions
 - ii. PPM 8-11, Evaluation of Faculty Members
 - iii. PPM 8-24, Service at Accredited Institutions as Part of Probationary Period for Tenure
 - iv. PPM 8-28, Annual Faculty Performance Review Document (Redline), (Clean)

Action: Chair Keith Titus moved to approve PPMs 8-8, 8-11, 8-24, and 8-28, with a second from Trustee Matt Dixon. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Program Reviews
 - i. Mechanical Engineering
 - ii. Master of Science in Athletic Training
- c. Curricular Items
 - i. New Degree Programs

- 1. Advanced Substance Use Disorder Counselor Minor
- 2. Basic Substance Use Disorder Counselor Minor
- 3. Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience
- 4. Bachelor of Science in Occupational and Environmental Health & Safety

Action: Trustee Brent Bishop moved to approve the program reviews Mechanical Engineering and Master of Science in Athletic Training, and new degree programs, Advanced Substance Use Disorder Minor, Basic Substance Use Disorder Counselor Minor, Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience, and Bachelor of Science in Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety, with a second from Trustee Brad Wilson. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. Program Name Changes

1. Art (BFA), Art Education Minor to Art (BFA), Visual Arts Teaching Minor
2. Automotive Service Technology Certificate of Proficiency to Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair Certificate of Proficiency
3. Advanced Radiologic Sciences (BS), Interventional Imaging Emphasis to Invasive Imaging Emphasis
4. Art (BFA), Art Education Emphasis to Art (BFA), Visual Arts Teaching Emphasis
5. Interpersonal & Family Communication Emphasis to Relational & Organizational Communication Emphasis
6. Applied Mathematics (BA/BS) to Applied and Pure Mathematics (BA/BS)
7. Dance Education Major K-12 (BS) to Dance Teaching (BS)
8. Nutrition Education: Sports Nutrition (BS) to Human Nutrition: Sports Dietetics (BS)
9. Master of Science in Radiologic Sciences (MSRS), Innovation and Improvement Emphasis to Master of Science in Radiologic Sciences (MSRS), Medical Imaging Leadership Emphasis

Action: Trustee Ally Isom moved to approve the program name changes as listed above, with a second from Brent Bishop. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Administrative Unit Discontinuance: Center for Leadership in Corporate Social Responsibility

Action: Chair Keith Titus moved to approve the Administrative Unit Discontinuance: Center for Leadership in Corporate Social Responsibility, with a second from Trustee Ally Isom. The motion passed unanimously.

The following items were noted for information

- a. HB 265 Curricular Changes
- b. Academic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2026

Announcement

VP Ali Threet announced the WSUSA elections had taken place, and student Emmett Busby was elected as the new WSUSA president. Trustee Pehrson thanked Trustee Foster for her dedication to the Board, highlighting the impressive quality of her work.

Adjourned

With all agenda items completed and the business finished, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.