

Minutes of April 17, 2026  
School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration Board Nominating Committee  
Anchor Location: 310 S Main Street, Ste 1275, Salt Lake City, UT 84101; Zoom

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

**Committee Members Absent:** Brad Benz, Mike Canning

**Staff Support:** Jessie Stuart, Liz Mumford

**1. Call to Order and Meeting Overview:** The SITLA Board Nominating Committee was called to order at approximately 9:17 a.m. to conduct interviews for a vacant seat on the SITLA Board. The Chair noted that despite some minor scheduling adjustments due to local traffic issues, the committee would proceed with a standard rotation for candidate questioning, including participation from members joining remotely via video conference.

Committee member Ms. Hrenko-Browning disclosed a formal conflict of interest regarding one of the scheduled candidates. For the record, it was noted that she would excuse herself from that specific interview. The committee has established a voting procedure to ensure the integrity and fairness of the selection process.

The committee discussed the specific nature of the current vacancy being interviewed for. The successful candidate will fill the remaining one-year vacancy left by Chair James. While the seat is initially for one year, the individual may be eligible for a subsequent full six-year term (potentially totaling seven years of service). However, per current statute, they must undergo the full interview and application process again next year.

There was a brief discussion regarding potential future statutory changes to SITLA or SITFO that might streamline this process, though no immediate bill file is planned specifically for this purpose. The committee was briefed on upcoming structural changes resulting from the passage of SB43; this meeting marks the final cycle under the current committee structure.

**2. Closed Session** Ms. Barrus moved to enter closed session pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205A to review candidates to be nominated to serve on the SITLA Board, seconded by Ms. Hrenko-Browning. The vote was unanimous via roll call. The Committee entered closed session at approximately 9:22 am.

**3. Nominee Selection:** Following the conclusion of candidate interviews and committee discussion, Chair Somers called for a motion to advance the selected nominees. Ms. Plant moved to submit Candidate 3 and Candidate 6 to the Governor; the motion was seconded by Mr. Barrus and approved by unanimous vote.

**4. Adjourn:** Mr. Garrett motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:18 p.m.