



USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM MDT

Attendance

Trustees:

Tessa White, Chair

Gina Gagon, Vice Chair

Max Alder

Ryan Dent

Brett Hugie

David Huntsman (absent)

Luke Johnson

Kacie Malouf

Dave Petersen

Jacey Skinner

Clark Whitworth

University Representatives:

Jeff Aird

Lisa Berreau

Janalyn Brown

Steve Campbell

Dave Cowley

Pam Dupin-Bryant (virtual)

Jared Gereau

Crystal Giordano (virtual)

Haley Klaassen

Brad Mortensen, President

Burke Nazer

Jessica Oyler

Bill Plate

Justen Smith

Larry Smith

Brandon Sorensen

MaKenzie Stock

Cam Walker

Courtney White

Matt White

Kris Winter

Devin Wiser

Sam Zehe

Other:

TJ Bliss, USHE (virtual)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order

10:00 AM

Presenter: Chair Tessa White

Chair White welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order.

2. Resolution of Appreciation for Brandon Sorensen (see resolution)

10:01 AM

Presenter: Chair Tessa White

Chair White read the commendation and recognized Trustee Brandon Sorensen for his service.

3. Oath of Office - Max Alder

10:05 AM

Presenter: Notary Sam Zehe

Notary Sam Zehe administered the oath of office to new Trustee and USUSA President Max Alder; the signed and notarized form will be filed with the Utah State Archives and USHE.

4. President's Report & Legislative Audit Update (see report)

10:08 AM

Presenters: President Brad Mortensen, VP Jessica Oyler

The Board received updates on the provost search, noting that four finalists will visit campus in May, with opportunities for trustee interaction, including via Zoom. An update was also provided on the general counsel search, with finalist meetings scheduled to coincide with the provost visits. Trustees were informed of an upcoming AGB-facilitated board assessment survey focused on governance and leadership.

The university was selected to participate in a Gates Foundation–funded Gardner Institute initiative supporting strategic prioritization.

Progress on legislative audit recommendations was reviewed, including a tracking document outlining completed and ongoing tasks, timelines, and planned follow-up reporting.

Discussion included budget model, HR and talent management systems, and compensation evaluation.

Updates were also provided on accreditation correspondence, ongoing and upcoming leadership searches, and a decision to delay hiring for the Dean of Jon M. Huntsman School of Business until the Provost position is filled.

5. Reports

5.1. USUSA Report

10:38 AM

Presenter: Former USUSA President Brandon Sorensen

See attached presentation. The Board received an update on USUSA, highlighting student engagement efforts, investments in campus experience, growth in student organizations, and increased participation across events and service. Revisions to the Academic Senate structure were noted, and a comprehensive year-end report is forthcoming.

5.2. Trustee Committee Reports

10:51 AM

5.2.1. Executive (see report)

Presenter: Chair Tessa White

5.2.2. ARC (see report)

Presenter: Trustee Ryan Dent

5.2.3. TRAAC (see report)

Presenter: Vice Chair Gina Gagon

5.2.4. Strategic Partnerships and Fundraising (see report)

Presenter: Trustee Jacey Skinner

5.2.5. Student Success (see report)

Presenter: Trustee Kacie Malouf

5.3. Student Success - Completion and Enrollment

11:13 AM

Presenter: VP Kris Winter

See attached presentation. The Board received a presentation on student success and strategic planning, emphasizing alignment with the university's broader strategic plan and a focus on retention and degree completion. Discussion addressed enrollment challenges related to demographic shifts, financial and other barriers to student persistence, and the use of data, analytics, and emerging technologies to provide proactive student support. Current retention and completion metrics were reviewed, along with opportunities to improve first-year student outcomes and overall institutional effectiveness.

6. Consent Agenda

11:43 AM

Motion

Trustee Clark Whitworth moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Kacie Malouf seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

6.1. Approve: Meeting Minutes

6.1.1. 3.20.26 USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

6.1.2. 4.10.26 USU Board of Trustees P&T Meeting Minutes

6.2. Recommend: Re-appointment to Space Dynamic Laboratory Board of Directors: Ms. Elizabeth M. Young

6.3. RETIRE: Policy 5205: Network Monitoring & Vulnerability Scanning

6.4. Academic Approvals

6.4.1. Name Changes and Restructures

6.4.1.1. CEHS-NURS-Nursing Associate of Applied Science Restructure

6.4.1.2. CEHS-SPERC-Special Education: Complex Support Needs Emphasis Elementary Education Composite Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science Name Change

6.4.1.3. CEHS-SPERC-Special Education: Mild/Moderate & Complex Support Needs Dual Emphasis Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science Name Change

6.4.1.4. CEHS-SPERC-Special Education: Complex Support Needs Emphasis Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science Name Change

6.4.1.5. CEHS-SPERC-Special Education Online Practical Teacher Training (OPTT): Complex Support Needs Emphasis Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science Name Change

6.4.1.6. CEHS-SPERC-Special Education: Complex Support Needs & Birth to 5 Dual Emphasis Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science Name Change

- 6.4.1.7. QANR-ADVS-Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences Master of Science Restructure
- 6.4.1.8. QANR-ADVS-Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences PhD Restructure
- 6.4.1.9. QANR-TDTE-Automation Technology Technical Certificate Name Change and Restructure
- 6.4.1.10. QANR-TDTE-Electrical Apprenticeship Technical Certificate Name Change and Restructure
- 6.4.1.11. QANR-TDTE-Carpentry Fundamentals Technical Certificate Name Change and Restructure
- 6.4.1.12. QANR-TDTE-Construction Technology Technical Certificate Name Change and Restructure QANR-TDTE-Cosmetology Technical Certificate Name Change and Restructure
- 6.4.1.13. QANR-TDTE-Cosmetology Technical Certificate Name Change and Restructure
- 6.4.1.14. QANR-TDTE-Drafting and Design Technical Certificate Name Change and Restructure
- 6.4.1.15. QANR-TDTE-Medical Assistant Technical Certificate Restructure
- 6.4.1.16. QANR-TDTE-Nail Technician Technical Certificate Name Change and Restructure
- 6.4.1.17. QANR-TDTE-Phlebotomy Technical Certificate Name Change and Restructure
- 6.4.2. Transfers
 - 6.4.2.1. QANR-WILD-Master of Natural Resources-MNR Transfer
- 6.4.3. Discontinuations
 - 6.4.3.1. CEHS-KHS-Health Education Teaching Certificate Discontinue
- 6.4.4. Certificates
 - 6.4.4.1. CAS-COMM-Conflict Transformation Post-Bachelor's Certificate
 - 6.4.4.2. CAS-THEA-Musical Theatre Certificate
 - 6.4.4.3. CEHS-ITLS-Qualitative Advanced Research Methods (Q-ARM) Post-Bachelor's Certificate
 - 6.4.4.4. COE-Engineering Foundations Certificate
 - 6.4.4.5. QANR-LAEP-Thematic Design Certificate
- 6.4.5. Full Programs
 - 6.4.5.1. COE-BE-Biomanufacturing Master of Science
 - 6.4.5.2. COE-BE-Chemical Engineering Bachelor of Science
 - 6.4.5.3. COE-Energy Engineering Bachelor of Science
 - 6.4.5.4. QANR-ENVS-Master of Geographic Information Science and Technology

7. CLOSED SESSION

11:52 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 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 11:52 am.

Attendance

Trustees:

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

University Representatives Present:

Janalyn Brown	Dave Cowley	Jessica Oyler
Brad Mortensen, President	Burke Nazer	

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.

8. Information Agenda

8.1. Report of Investments-December 2025

8.2. Upcoming: June 4-6, 2026: (Price, UT) Board of Trustees Meeting, Training and Passport to Eastern

9. Adjourn

1:00 PM

Motion

Trustee Luke Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Gina Gagon seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned.