



COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Wednesday, April 1, 2026
12:15 to 2:15 pm
Board Room
88 South Tooele Blvd.
Tooele, UT 84074

MINUTES

Members Present: Lori Haines-Little – Chair, Aaron Stagg, Cole Dangerfield, David Douglas, Melissa Rich
Virtual Attendance: Yvonne Nielsen, Eric Petersen – USHE Legal Counsel, Kim Ziebarth – Assoc. Commissioner of Tech. Ed.
Staff Present: Kent Thygerson, Mark Aiken, Tricia Walker, Tera Porter, Kurtis Ence, Brittany Davies, Ryan Giles, Mikayla Perez
Excused: Dave Petersen, Lynn Jeffers, Sheldon Birch
Guests: Kambrie Bird – Tooele Tech student

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Chair Lori Haines-Little welcomed everyone and stated that a quorum was present to proceed.

Student Spotlight - Practical Nursing

Kamrie Bird shared her pivotal journey from Weber State to Tooele Tech, highlighting the PN program's supportive environment and the "bridge" opportunity to USU's RN program.

Program Spotlight - CNA

Ryan Giles and Mikayla Perez discussed the Nursing Assistant program's role as the "heart of nursing." Key points included the 114-hour curriculum, the 11:1 student-to-instructor clinical ratio at Rocky Mountain Care, and the importance of teaching empathy alongside technical skills.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Calendar

Lori Haines-Little verified the following items contained in the Consent Calendar had been reviewed by the Board:

- January 14, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
- Investment Report
- Marketing/Recruitment Report
- OAC Members
- Approval of FY 2027 College Calendar

Melissa Rich moved to approve the Consent Calendar items, seconded by Aaron Stagg. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Finance & Audit

Brittany Davies reported that the Year-To-Date Financial Report reflects that the institutional income is \$97,000 over budget, due to high enrollment. Expenses are also over budget by \$158,000, driven by Bookstore cost of goods sold and CDL vehicle repairs.

Brittany reviewed USHE's IT Audit Report. Findings included the need to formalize IT policies, address email "DMARC" spoofing risks, and disable "auto-run" settings on student computers. The college has already initiated corrective actions, such as installing CrowdStrike antivirus and lowering the DMARC risk level to "low."

Cole Dangerfield moved to receive the Year-To-Date Financial Report and the Internal IT Audit Report, seconded by Aaron Stagg. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Instruction & Student Services

Aaron Stagg explained the changes to the Student Admissions & Registration Policy, including the removal of the COVID-19 vaccination requirement and the EMT medical prerequisites.

David Douglas moved to approve the Student Admissions & Registration Policy as presented, seconded by Cole Dangerfield. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Aaron Stagg explained the length change to the Nail Instructor Program, a reduction from 5 to 4 credits to align with updated state hour requirements, thereby increasing cost-efficiency for students.

David Douglas moved to approve the length change to the Nail Instructor Program as presented, seconded by Aaron Stagg. **The motion passed unanimously.**

INFORMATION ITEMS

Instruction & Student Services

Aaron Stagg informed the Board of the following:

- Congressman Owens Visit: The Vice Chair of the House Education and Workforce Committee toured the campus, engaging with students and discussing federal support for technical education.
- Get the Green Promotion: The event drew 303 adult leads, a successful baseline for future adult-targeted recruitment.
- Program Updates:
 - Law Enforcement: 100% placement rate for recent SFO completers.
 - Youth Outreach: Diesel and Welding are partnering for a 3-week junior high summer camp.
 - Graduation Stats: 14 PN, 11 CNA, 22 EMT, and 10 Electrical Apprenticeship graduates are anticipated.
 - SkillsUSA: Tooele Tech earned four medals (Gold in Welding, IT, and Barbering; Bronze in Welding).

Planning & External Relations

Chair Haines-Little emphasized that the presidential search comply with state law regarding candidate confidentiality, and that all public-facing milestones and process updates be posted on the college's dedicated Presidential Search webpage. An open forum is scheduled for April 7th to gather community input for the job description.

President's Report

Interim President Kent Thygerson shared the following:

- Legislative Outcomes: Reviewed HB84 (Campus Concealed Carry for 18-20s), SB152 (Data sharing with USBE), and the \$424,000 in new Performance and Capacity funding.
- Mass Casualty Training: The college held a mock active shooter drill with local SWAT, law enforcement, and EMT student volunteers. Lessons learned included the text-to-911 option, having multiple plans to run, hide, or fight, and utilizing emergency communication threads.
- USHE Updates: Discussed the Strategic Realignment initiative to move \$512k toward high-wage, high-demand programs by 2030 and a pending USHE study to "right-size" technical college tuition.
- Graduation: Scheduled for May 14, 2026.

An invitation to ask questions or offer comments was offered before concluding the meeting. Lori Haines-Little moved to adjourn, seconded by Cole Dangerfield. **The meeting adjourned at 1:47 pm.**