USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting (VIRTUAL only)
Friday, August 7, 2026, at 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM MDT

Attendance
Trustees:

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

University Representatives:

Brad Mortensen, President
Jeff Aird
Paul Barr
Lisa Berreau
Janalyn Brown
Steve Campbell
Chris Corcoran
Dave Cowley
Pam Dupin-Bryant
Crystal Giordano
Nicole Laroque
Jessica Oyler
Shannon Pipes
Bill Plate
Justen Smith
Brian Steed
MaKenzie Stock
Cam Walker
Matt White
Courtney White
Kris Winter

Other:
Geoff Landward, USHE Commissioner

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order **8:02 AM**
Presenter: Chair Tessa White

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

2. Closed Session **8:03 AM**

Motion for Closed Session
Trustee Dent 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 Johnson. Roll call vote was initiated by Chair White and taken by Secretary Janalyn Brown. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the meeting moved to a closed session which commenced at 8:05 am.

Closed Session Attendance

Trustees:

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

University Representatives:

Brad Mortensen, President
Janalyn Brown
Dave Cowley
Jessica Oyler
Shannon Pipes

Motion to adjourn Closed Session

Motion to adjourn the closed session was made by Trustee Huntsman and seconded by Trustee Dent. Voting was unanimous and the closed session concluded at 9:53 am.

3. Committee Reports **9:53 AM**

3.1. Executive Committee (see attached report)
Presenter: Chair Tessa White

Along with the report, an overview was provided of proposed changes to the Board committee structure to better align committee work with the President's strategic priorities. The revised structure reduces the number of committees from eight to six and creates a Finance and Budget Committee by separating finance responsibilities from the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee. Please see the attached document for additional details on the proposed committee structure.

3.2. Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee (see attached report)
Presenter: Trustee Ryan Dent

3.3. Statewide Mission and Campus Oversight Committee (see attached report)
Presenter: Trustee David Petersen

3.4. Athletics Committee (see attached report)
Presenter: Trustee Clark Whitworth

3.5. Research and Academic Approval Committee (see attached report)
Presenter: Trustee Ryan Dent

3.6. Honorary Degrees, Awards and Recognition Committee (see attached report)
Presenter: Trustee Max Alder

4. Legislative Audit and MOU Updates **10:18 AM**

Presenters: President Brad Mortensen, VP Jessica Oyler

President Mortensen provided an update on the legislative audit implementation process. He reported that the six-month progress report had been submitted to the Office of the Legislative Auditor General and was received positively, with auditors indicating they would follow up if additional questions arose. The report was reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee prior to submission, and committee feedback was incorporated. While a small number of action items were slightly behind schedule, appropriate explanations were included in the report. President Mortensen noted that the university continues to make steady progress in implementing the audit recommendations and that strong institutional support remains in place.

President Mortensen provided updates on several pending memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with external partners, including agreements with Brigham City and High-Tech Solutions for a nuclear energy workforce training facility, Bridgerland Technical College for program expansion, Logan City for affordable housing initiatives, and the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation. Board members will be invited to MOU signing events.

5. Action Agenda

5.1. Approve: Utah State University Mission Statement (see attached statement)10:26 AM
Presenters: President Brad Mortensen, VP Jessica Oyler

Discussion focused on revisions to the Utah State University mission statement to align with institutional priorities and feedback from the recent Cabinet retreat. Final Board approval was deferred to the September meeting to allow for additional campus input, including a town hall. The proposed statement emphasizes USU's student-centered, land-grant mission by expanding opportunity, advancing learning and discovery, and strengthening communities.

5.2. Approve: Policy 4004: Post-Tenure Review 10:35 AM
Presenters: Executive Vice Provost Paul Barr, Provost & EVP Chris Corcoran, President Brad Mortensen

Recent legislative changes to post-tenure review were summarized, requiring faculty to undergo an in-depth review every five years in addition to annual evaluations. The process provides opportunities for improvement plans. Annual reports will be submitted to the system office. Paul Barr noted that the updated policy clarifies expectations, revises the committee structure to promote objectivity, and supports ongoing efforts to strengthen processes while ensuring quality and accountability among tenured faculty.

Motion
Trustee Skinner moved that the USU Board of Trustees approve Policy 4004, Post-Tenure Review, as presented. Motion was seconded by Trustee Petersen. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.3. Approve: Disposal of Real Property, Elwood, UT 10:41 AM
Presenters: President Brad Mortensen, VP Dave Cowley

The university proposed selling 48.9 acres of real property in Elwood, Utah, contingent upon finding a buyer at or near the appraised value.

Motion
Trustee Malouf moved that the USU Board of Trustees approve the disposal of the University-owned real property located in Elwood, Utah, as presented. Motion was seconded by Trustee Huntsman. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.4. Ratify: USU Board of Trustee Committee Adjustments **10:42 AM**
Presenter: Chair Tessa White

Chair White confirmed that discussion on trustee committee adjustments had already occurred and invited further concerns or questions.

Motion
Trustee Whitworth moved that the USU Board of Trustees ratify the proposed adjustments to Board committee assignments as presented. Motion was seconded by Trustee Malouf. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.5. Ratify: Appointment of USU Foundation Board members **10:44 AM**
Presenters: President Brad Mortensen, VP Matt White

In support of aligning Foundation Board operations with the Board of Trustees, the board considered the ratification of three appointments to the Utah State University Foundation Board: Eric Laub as a full board member for a three-year term, Steven Kindred as a full board member for a three year term, and Sami Ahmed as the Graduate of the Last Decade for a two year term.

Motion
Trustee Johnson moved that the USU Board of Trustees ratify the appointment of the nominated members to the Utah State University Foundation Board as presented. Motion was seconded by Trustee Dent. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

6. Consent Agenda **10:46 AM**

Motion

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

6.1. Approve: 6.5.26 USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
6.2. Approve: 6.6.26 USU Board of Trustees and USU Foundation Board Training Minutes
6.3. Academic Approvals

6.3.1. **Approve: New Degrees**

6.3.1.1. **Full Program: Health Professions Associate of Science Department of Kinesiology & Health Science Emma Eccles Jones College of Education, Health & Human Sciences**

6.3.1.2. **Full Program: Nursing Associate of Science Department of Nursing Emma Eccles Jones College of Education, Health & Human Sciences**

6.3.1.3. **Full Program: Behavioral Neuroscience Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science Department of Psychology Emma Eccles Jones College of Education, Health & Human Sciences**

6.3.1.4. **Full Program: Construction Associate of Science School of Professional & Technical Education S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Agriculture & Natural Resource**

6.4. **Approve: Policy**

6.4.1. **Policy 1220: General Expenditure Policy**

6.4.2. **Policy 3207: Wage & Salary Administration**

6.4.3. **Policy 3301: Criminal Background Checks**

6.4.4. **Policy 3311: Employee Gifts & Awards**

6.4.5. **Policy 4000: Composition & Authority of the Faculty**

6.4.6. **Policy 4002: Academic Freedom & Professional Responsibility**

6.4.7. **Policy 4003: Faculty Appointments**

6.4.8. **Policy 5208: Digital Accessibility**

6.4.9. **Policy 5312: Vehicle Use**

7. Information Agenda 10:48 AM

7.1. Heravi Peace Institute Reporting Change

Presenter: President Brad Mortensen, VP Jessica Oyler

A proposed change to the Heravi Peace Institute's administrative reporting structure was presented, moving oversight to the Office of the Provost to reflect the Institute's university-wide impact. The College of Arts and Sciences will continue to provide support. A motion was requested to express the Trustees' support for the proposed change.

Motion

Trustee Petersen moved that the USU Board of Trustees support the Heravi Peace Institute reporting changes as presented. Motion was seconded by Trustee Skinner. Voting was unanimous in support.

7.2. April 2026 Report of Investments

7.3. May 2026 Report of Investments

7.4. ASPIRE Board Member Updates

7.5. USU Board of Trustees Online Training (due by August 31, 2026)
Presenter: Chair Tessa White
7.6. Upcoming: September 17-18, 2026, USU Board of Trustees Retreat and Regular Meeting, Logan campus

8. Adjourn — 10:55 AM

Chair White highlighted three core themes she noticed throughout the meeting: an increased focus on research, expanded attention to finance, budget, audit, and compliance through committee restructuring, and efforts to foster a culture of accountability. She also noted that the new committee structure will allow the Board to spend more time discussing research and financial matters.

Motion
Trustee Huntsman moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned.

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Tessa White, Chair

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Janalyn Brown, Secretary

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Date Approved