



USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Friday, September 18, 2026, at 1:15 PM - 3:15 PM MDT

Sonne Board Room, University Inn, Logan, UT

Attendance

Trustees:

Tessa White, Chair

Gina Gagon, Vice Chair

Max Alder

Ryan Dent

Brett Hugie

David Huntsman

Luke Johnson

Kacie Malouf

Dave Petersen

Jacey Skinner

Clark Whitworth

University Representatives:

Brad Mortensen, President

Tiffany Allison (virtual)

Lisa Berreau

Janalyn Brown

Steve Campbell

Chris Corcoran

Dave Cowley

Amanda Derito (virtual)

Pam Dupin-Bryant

Jared Gereau

Crystal Giordano (virtual)

Mirella Meyer-Ficca

Jessica Oyler

Shannon Pipes

Bill Plate

Justen Smith

Brian Steed

MaKenzie Stock

Cam Walker

Courtney White

Matt White

Kris Winter

Other:

Travis Lish (virtual)

Jennica Whitworth

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Presenter: Chair Tessa White

1:15 PM

Trustees reflected on their interactions with university leadership throughout the retreat, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about the work occurring across the institution. Trustees noted the breadth of accomplishments and initiatives taking place within the colleges and departments and discussed the importance of effectively communicating the university's impact and successes to community members, stakeholders, and legislators. The Board also highlighted the value of holding meetings in different campus locations and engaging directly with deans and university leaders through informal discussions, which provided deeper insight into institutional priorities and opportunities. Trustees observed strong alignment between college initiatives and the university's mission and strategic priorities and

commented on the optimism, innovation, and commitment demonstrated by university leadership.

2. Closed Session

1:20 PM

Motion for Closed Session

Vice Chair 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 Dent. 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 1:20 pm.

Closed Session Attendance

Trustees:

Tessa White, Chair

Gina Gagon, Vice Chair

Max Alder

Ryan Dent

Brett Hugie

David Huntsman

Luke Johnson

Kacie Malouf

Dave Petersen

Jacey Skinner

Clark Whitworth

University Representatives:

Brad Mortensen, President

Janalyn Brown

Jessica Oyler

Shannon Pipes

Motion to adjourn Closed Session

Motion to adjourn the closed session was made by Vice Chair Gagon and seconded by Trustee Huntsman. Voting was unanimous and the closed session concluded at 2:09 pm.

3. Committee Reports

2:11 PM

3.1. Executive (see attached report)

Presenter: Chair Tessa White, Vice Chair Gina Gagon

3.2. Audit, Risk & Compliance (see attached report)

Presenter: Trustee Ryan Dent

3.3. Academic Affairs & Statewide Alignment (see attached report)

Presenter: Vice Chair Gina Gagon

3.4. Finance and Budget (see attached report)

Presenter: Trustee Brett Hugie

3.5. Strategic Partners & Research (see attached report)

Presenter: Trustee Luke Johnson

3.6. Student Success (see attached report)

Presenter: Trustee Jacey Skinner

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

2:31 PM

Presenters: President Brad Mortensen, VP Jessica Oyler

President Mortensen provided an update on university accomplishments across research, advancement, administrative and financial services, Extension, and statewide programs, highlighting the strong collaboration and momentum across the institution as the academic year begins. He also reported progress related to legislative audit recommendations, including implementation of a new talent management system, enhancements to purchasing controls, and continued development of a comprehensive academic program review process that will be presented to the Board in the future. President Mortensen indicated that the university remains on track in meeting audit expectations and will provide an additional update at the November Board meeting.

5. Action Agenda

5.1. Approve: Utah State University Mission Statement

2:34 PM

Presenters: President Brad Mortensen, VP Jessica Oyler

The Board reviewed the revised Utah State University mission statement, including updates made since the August meeting to reflect feedback received from campus stakeholders and university leadership. Discussion focused on ensuring the mission statement accurately reflects the university's identity as a research institution while maintaining a strong student-centered focus.

Motion

Trustee Skinner moved that the USU Board of Trustees approve the Utah State University Mission Statement: *"As Utah's student-centered, land-grant research university, we expand opportunity and strengthen communities across the state through learning, discovery, extension, and engagement."*

Motion was seconded by Trustee Alder. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.2. Approve: Capital Facilities Master Planning and Innovation Campus Update

2:38 PM

Presenters: President Brad Mortensen, VP Jessica Oyler, VP Dave Cowley

The Board received a review of the university's Capital Facilities Master Plan and Innovation Campus update, which is presented annually in accordance with Utah Board of Higher Education policy. Trustees discussed ongoing master planning efforts across the statewide campuses, including completed district plans, future development opportunities, and major capital projects currently under construction. The Board reviewed the university's five-year capital plan, including priorities for facility renovations and infrastructure improvements, and discussed the importance of aligning future capital investments with institutional strategic priorities, student needs, and opportunities for growth. Trustees also noted that the master plan and capital priorities remain flexible and may be adjusted as funding opportunities, donor support, and institutional needs evolve.

Motion

Trustee Malouf moved that the USU Board of Trustees approve the Capital Facilities Master Planning and Innovation Campus Update, as presented. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Gagon. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.3. Approve: FY27 USU President's Home Operation and Maintenance Budget 2:52 PM

Presenter: VP Jessica Oyler

The Board reviewed the FY27 President's Home Operation and Maintenance Budget, noting that projected expenses have increased from prior years due to the president's occupancy of the residence but remain below the state's annual operation and maintenance allocation. Trustees discussed the budget and the importance of reserving funds for future maintenance and facility improvements necessary to keep the residence functional and well maintained as a university-owned home.

Motion

Trustee Petersen moved that the USU Board of Trustees approve the FY27 USU President's Home Operation and Maintenance Budget, as presented. Motion was seconded by Trustee Hugie. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.4. Approve: FY27 USU President's Final Budget

2:54 PM

Presenter: President Brad Mortensen

The Board reviewed the President's FY27 final budget, which was updated to reflect actual expenditures from the previous fiscal year. Trustees discussed budget adjustments, including increased funding for Board of Trustees travel and presidential travel to support the university's statewide engagement and outreach efforts.

Motion

Trustee Dent moved that the USU Board of Trustees approve the FY27 USU President's Final Budget, as presented. Motion was seconded by Trustee Johnson. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

6. USU Foundation Board Memorandum of Understanding

2:57 PM

Presenters: President Brad Mortensen, VP Matt White

The Board discussed updates to the Memorandum of Understanding and related governance documents designed to strengthen alignment between the Board of Trustees and the Utah State University Foundation Board. Trustees reviewed revisions incorporating previous feedback and discussed efforts to update the documents to reflect current policies, state law, and governance best practices. The Board was informed that the revised documents would be presented to the Foundation Board for consideration before returning to the Board of Trustees for final approval. Trustees were encouraged to provide any remaining feedback to support completion of the process.

7. Consent Agenda

3:01 PM

Motion

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

- 7.1. Approve: 8.7.26 USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes**
- 7.2. Approve: Policy 3110: Holidays with Pay**
- 7.3. Approve: Certificate Discontinuations**
 - 7.3.1. QANR-SPTE-Additive Manufacturing Technical Certificate-Discontinuation**
 - 7.3.2. QANR-SPTE-Drafting and Design Technical Certificate-Discontinuation**
 - 7.3.3. QANR-SPTE-Police Officer Standards Training (POST) Academy Technical Certificate-Discontinuation**
 - 7.3.4. QANR-SPTE-Software Development Technical Certificate-Discontinuation**
- 7.4. Approve: Certificate Restructure**
 - 7.4.1. QANR-SPTE-Digital Design Technical Certificate-Restructure**
- 7.5. Approve: New Certificate**
 - 7.5.1. QANR-SPTE-Electrical Residential Technical Certificate**
- 7.6. Approve: Expedited Tenure – Valentina Salotti**

8. Resolution of Commendation: David Huntsman (see attached resolution)

3:03 PM

9. Information Agenda

- 9.1. Report of Investments June 2026**
- 9.2. USHE Board of Trustees Summit: Monday, October 19 – 8:00am-5:00pm, Cleone Peterson Eccles Alumni House, Salt Lake City, UT**
- 9.3. USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting: Friday, November 6**
- 9.4. Online Trustee Trainings due now**

10. Adjourn

3:12 PM

Motion

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

Tessa White, Chair

Janalyn Brown, Secretary

Date Approved