OGDEN-WEBER TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Board of Trustees Meeting – August 27, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Student Services Building, Harold W. Ritchey Board Room/Zoom

Board Members in Attendance:

William Shafer, Vice Chair
Paul Widdison
Brent Bishop
Greg Sanders (remote)
Cameron Cook
Sara Toliver
Jennifer Zundel
Christine Jacobson-Ware
Cori Anderson (remote)

Board Members not in Attendance:

Kori Ann Edwards
Jan Burrell

OTECH Administration:

James R. Taggart, President
Johna Howard, Vice President for Student Services
Tyler Call, Vice President for College Services
Maria Milligan, Associate Vice President for College Advancement
Anita Ruiz, Senior Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

Guests:

Geoffrey Landward, Commissioner of Higher Education
Taylor Adams, Associate Commissioner of Presidential Leadership and Special Projects
Jeremy Shaw, Assistant Attorney General

1. INTRODUCTION OF "PRESIDENT'S AWARD" RECIPIENTS

President Taggart shared that the college holds an annual kick off meeting in July which provides professional development for employees that helps set the theme for the upcoming year, and the President's Awards Ceremony is held.

The following individuals were recipients of the President's Awards that align with the college's core values of community, learning, and integrity.

- Nathan Boettcher was awarded the Community Award for his exceptional work in building community and providing high-quality training materials.

- Curtis Blackley received the Learning Award for his significant contributions to the IT and networking cybersecurity programs, including doubling graduation rates and rebuilding partnerships with employers.

- Terry Weaver was honored with the Integrity Award for improving and automating purchasing processes, ensuring compliance with state procurement laws, and fostering a culture of ethical

behavior.

- Fred Frazier is recognized with the President's Outstanding Employee Award for his leadership in campus safety, including building standard operating procedures, providing ongoing training, and managing emergency drills.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the board of trustees meeting for June 25, 2026, were reviewed and approved as written.

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes from June 25, 2026
Motion to approve: Paul Widdison and seconded by Christine Jacobson Ware
Final approval: Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF FY28 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Vice President Call shared the FY28 Capital Improvement Projects for approval.

- Tyler Call explained the annual approval process for capital improvements projects, which includes funding from the state for infrastructure needs.
- Recent projects include downsizing the boiler and heat plant, replacing the roof on the construction tech building, and updating the event center.
- Current projects include addressing sewer line issues and re-roofing the building, with funding depending on the legislative session.
- The board discussed the challenges of accessing infrastructure underneath the building due to its design.
- The college has submitted a request to DFCM for the demolition of the Business Building and the addition of overflow parking to support the new Pathway Building. DFCM is currently working with the Legislature to have this funding included as part of the Pathway Building project. If we are allowed to use the funds that are still available this item will not be a part of the capital improvement list.

Approval of the FY28 Capital Improvement Projects
Motion to approve: Christine Jacobson-Ware and seconded by Sara Toliver
Final approval: Motion carried unanimously.

4. STRATEGIC REINVESTMENT PLAN

President Taggart shared draft details for the Strategic Reinvestment Plan, which focuses on disinvesting in existing areas and reallocating resources to higher-priority needs.

- The college has already made significant cuts, including eliminating the machinist apprenticeship, HVAC apprenticeship program, and the medical scribe program.
- The board approved the elimination of a graphic designer position and the director of admissions, and the software development program is in the process of being taught out.

- The college plans to reinvest savings in instructional programs, student services, and IT to improve efficiency and student outcomes.

- Commissioner Landward emphasized that the commissioner's office will provide ongoing guidance and support to help the board meet their responsibilities.

- The board will receive ongoing training to understand their roles and responsibilities, including setting budget policy, assessing the president's performance, and ensuring compliance with state laws and policies.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

Vice Chair Shafer encouraged trustees to review the monthly college reports and information highlighting student outcomes, budget, and metrics towards meeting strategic plan objectives.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION: *The board may elect to go into closed session which will not be open to the public, pursuant to Utah Code Title 52, Chapter 4, sections 204, 205, and 206.*

7. OPEN DISCUSSION

Community Needs and Program Emphasis:

- President Taggart discussed the community's demand for automation technicians, electricians, and cybersecurity professionals.

- The college is working closely with regional partners, including Weber State University, to meet these needs through collaborative programs.

- The college is also focusing on energy, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing programs to meet the demands of local employers.

High School Partnerships and Concurrent Enrollment:

- The college is working with high schools to offer technical education concurrent enrollment programs, which allow students to earn both high school and college credit.

- The college is also exploring the possibility of offering internships with local employers to provide students with real-world experience.

- The board discussed the challenges of concurrent enrollment, including ensuring that high school courses meet college rigor and prepare students for success.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on October 22, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURN

With no further discussion items, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.