

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Utah State University, Logan, Utah  
April 9, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Utah State University Board of Trustees held via videoconference commencing at 9:01 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jody K. Burnett	Chair
Kent K. Alder	Vice Chair
Sami I. Ahmed	
Laurel Cannon Alder	
John Y. Ferry	
Gina Gagon	
David H. Huntsman	
Wayne L. Niederhauser	
David A. Petersen	
Terryl Warner	

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Jacey Skinner

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Noelle E. Cockett	President
Teresa Denton	Staff Assistant Senior
Francis D. Galey	Executive Vice President and Provost
Mica A. McKinney	General Counsel and Vice President, Legal Affairs
Sydney M. Peterson	Secretary of the Board of Trustees
William M. Plate	Vice President, University Marketing and Communications
Timothy Taylor	President, Faculty Senate

OTHERS PRESENT

Geoffrey T. Landward	Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, Utah System of Higher Education
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Chair Burnett called the meeting to order and welcomed those present for their attendance.

Action: Trustee Ketn Alder moved 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, or physical or mental health of individuals, pending or reasonably imminent litigation, and the possible sale of real property. Trustee Dave Petersen seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Chair Burnett reopened the Regular Meeting at 9:45 a.m.

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Information Item

1. Welcome

Trustees Jody Burnett, Kent Alder, Sami Ahmed and President Noelle Cockett presented Utah State University's (USU) tuition and fees proposal to the Board of Higher Education (BHE) on March 5, 2021. President Cockett thanked Trustee Ahmed for being an actively engaged student body president. He received robust feedback from students and took those comments into consideration while determining tuition and fees changes. Trustee Ahmed stated that USU involves students in every step and enjoys tremendous support from the campus community. Trustee Alder added that USU's presentation was clear and detailed showing that USU worked hard on the proposal and made great efforts to involve students.

Geoffrey Landward, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel for the Utah System of Higher Education, shared feedback from the BHE. The BHE recognized the boards of trustees being in a better position to approve increases in tuition and fees because of their familiarity with the institutions they serve. The USU Board of Trustees and President Cockett came together and explained what USU had done which made a big difference with the BHE. The detailed presentation gave the BHE full confidence in USU's review process and allowed them to readily vote yes.

2. The Next Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on May 5, 2021. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. with a virtual commencement ceremony that evening at 7:00 p.m. Colleges will hold small in-person gatherings to enhance the commencement experience for their graduates. The honorary degree recipients and commencement speaker selected for 2020 will have the opportunity to be recognized during the 2021 virtual ceremony.

Secretary of the Board Sydney Peterson explained that by statute the Board of Trustees selects the honorary degree recipients. Typically, a dinner is held the night before commencement to congratulate the honorees. However, with the continued pandemic, the dinner will not be held so Board of Trustees members are encouraged to send notes of congratulations to each honoree following the commencement ceremonies.

President Cockett stated that the virtual commencement ceremonies will include taped hooding ceremonies for each of the honorary degree recipients – Julie Ann Robinson, Karen W. Morse, and Linda Skidmore Daines. Each of these honorees have expressed their desire to visit campus sometime this fall. An event following a future Board of Trustees meeting will be held so board members can properly honor the honorary degree recipients.

## II. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Burnett stated that the Trustees received the following agenda items for review.

- A. Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 5, 2021
- B. Minutes from the Closed Session held on March 5, 2021

Action: Trustee John Ferry moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Gina Gagon seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

### III. ACTION AGENDA

#### A. Tenure and Promotion 2021 (Appendix A) [Resolution 21-04-01]


President Cockett explained that candidates for faculty promotion and/or tenure are rigorously reviewed at several levels. Executive Vice President and Provost Francis Galey takes the lead in facilitating the review process from the very start with the candidate through to the recommendations to the trustees.

Provost Galey detailed the review process. USU annually reviews all faculty members. Faculty members in the pre-tenure or probationary period receive input regularly from their advisory committee and department head. Following promotion to the associate level, faculty members have a promotion advisory committee that advises them over the next three years toward promotion to full professorship. There are multiple levels of on-campus review as well as external letters of review from national and international colleagues. The advisory committee gives a recommendation to the department head. The department head evaluates the candidate and sends a recommendation to the dean. The dean does an independent review and makes a recommendation to the Provost. A central committee consisting of a full professor from each college, the Vice President for Extension, the Vice President for Research, and the Vice President for Statewide Campuses reviews every candidate's dossier and gives a recommendation to the provost. The president also makes a recommendation before the decisions are forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval. Basically, there are six levels of independent review for every faculty member who applies for promotion. Faculty members at USU are generally successful due to excellence in hiring and excellent feedback and mentoring.

Action: Trustee John Ferry moved to approve the ground lease with the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation. Trustee Laurel Cannon Alder seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

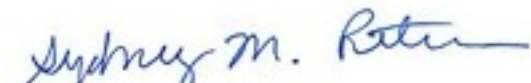
Chair Burnett asked if there were any other items the Trustees would like to discuss before the meeting closed; none were mentioned.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.



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Jody K. Burnett, Chair



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Sydney M. Peterson, Secretary  
(Minutes taken by Teresa Denton)

May 5, 2021  
Date Approved