

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Utah State University, Logan, Utah
December 3, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Utah State University Board of Trustees held via zoom videoconference commencing at 9:03 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kent K. Alder	Chair
John Y. Ferry	Vice Chair
Gina Gagon	
David H. Huntsman	
Kacie Malouf	
Wayne L. Niederhauser	
Steven L. Palmer	
David A. Petersen	
Jacey Skinner	
Lucas Stevens	
Tessa White	

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Neil N. Abercrombie	Vice President, Government Relations
Janet Anderson	Associate Vice President, Academic and Instructional Services
Jodi Bailey	Chief Audit Executive
Grace Barr	Assistant to the Vice President, Federal and State Relations
Paul Barr	Vice Provost
Lisa Berreau	Vice President, Research
Janalyn Brown	Staff Assistant, President's Office
Noelle E. Cockett	President
David T. Cowley	Vice President, Business and Finance
Teresa Denton	Staff Assistant Senior
Boyd Edwards	President, Faculty Senate
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
Laurens H. Smith	Vice President, Statewide Campuses
Scott Theurer	Member, Board of Higher Education
Michael Torrens	Executive Director, Analysis, Assessment and Accreditation
Robert W. Wagner	Vice President, Academic and Instructional Services
Kenneth L. White	Vice President, Extension; Dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Director, Agricultural Experiment Station

I. BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

Chair Kent Alder called the meeting to order and welcomed those present for their attendance.

Action: Trustee John Ferry 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 David Huntsman seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Chair Alder reopened the Regular Meeting at 10:15 a.m.

A. CHAIR'S REPORT

1. USU Fall Enrollment (Appendix A)

Michael Torrens presented Fall enrollment statistics for Utah State University (USU). Recently, media in Utah indicated that USU's enrollment had decreased. The data used in the article included both matriculated (degree-seeking students) and non-matriculated students at the third week of the semester. USU as a land-grant institution educating many types of students and typically gains enrollment numbers throughout the semester. USU's enrollment decline is real, modest, and multifaceted.

The majority of non-matriculated students are concurrently enrolled high school students taking advanced placement courses taught by high school teachers. For example, concurrent enrollment accounts for 36% of Weber State University's headcount and only 12% of USU's headcount.

When considering only matriculated student enrollment, USU is down 250 students over the last three years. During the same period, Utah Valley University has declined 1,400 students and Weber State University has gone down 870 students.

In the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) over the past five years, Fall matriculated enrollments have declined by 98 students (or 0.03%) and non-matriculated enrollments have grown 50%.

When looking at degrees awarded, USU's numbers have increased 29% since 2013 (annual growth rate of 4%). Efficiency in helping students complete their degrees creates an overall decrease in enrollment numbers.

The USHE numbers for matriculated students have remained level over the past six years.

2. Recruitment, Retention, and Completion Committee Report (Appendix B)

Enrollment statistics were the focus of the committee meeting held yesterday. Trustee Gina Gagon stated that perception is reality to those who do not understand the context of the data.

Vice President Robert Wagner presented solutions to the enrollment issue. Of the 250 students that USU lost this Fall, 85 students did not come to USU because of one apartment complex that canceled the students' contracts the

week before school started.

In-person open houses and events were restricted during the COVID-19 pandemic. These recruitment opportunities will increase in the coming year. The USU Promise Scholarship provides full tuition and fees up to eight semesters for incoming Utah residents who are eligible for Pell Grants. A Comprehensive Scholarship Review bases consideration on high school GPA and course rigor rather than ACT/SAT test scores. An Earned Admissions Path allows students with a GPA below 2.8 to take a student success class prior to attending USU. A Re-enrollment Campaign using USHE and Federal American Rescue Plan Spending (ARPA) funds focuses on non-traditional adult students returning to complete their educations.

A major initiative for 2023 includes offering more four-year scholarship awards. Presidential Scholarships are already four-year awards; however, low-tier scholarships may be combined with college awards to upperclassmen to offer a full four-year scholarship.

Vice President Bill Plate explained that the University of Utah has seen growth in non-resident students, and this is an area where USU could improve. Out-of-state open houses and events will be held and a new digital strategy will be tested this year. USU will recruit in states from which students have not typically come in the past. New tag lines are “Go West, pay less” and “Geaux Aggies, pay less.” In one week, social media generated 725,414 impressions and almost 3,000 clicks.

3. Next Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Friday, January 21, 2022
4. Introduction of Neil Abercrombie and Grace Barr

Secretary of the Board Sydney Peterson will retire at the end of the month. Appreciation was expressed for her hard work and dedication during her 42 years of service to USU.

Vice President Neil Abercrombie will add Secretary of the Board duties to his current vice presidential duties. Grace Barr and Janalyn Brown will assist him in the Board of Trustees Office.

B. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Recent Events

- a. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Sanghamitra Roy – October 13, 2021
- b. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Christopher Gonzalez – October 14, 2021
- c. Football – USU at UNLV – October 16, 2021
- d. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Daniel Davis – October 18, 2021
- e. LDS Stake Presidents' Luncheon, President's Home – October 19, 2021
- f. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Curtis Dreyson – October 19, 2021
- g. President's Alliance Steering Committee Virtual Meeting – October 20, 2021

- h. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Jennifer Reeve – October 20, 2021
- i. Remarks at Institute of Government and Politics 10-year Reunion/Reception – October 22, 2021
- j. Football – Colorado State at USU – October 22, 2021
- k. USU Homecoming Events – October 22-23, 2021
- l. Speak at Alumni Association Cap and Gown Ceremony – October 23, 2021
- m. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Matthew Jaremski – October 25, 2021
- n. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Lisa Boyce – October 26, 2021
- o. Inaugural Professor Lecture, David Richter – October 27, 2021
- p. Institute of Government and Politics 10-year Anniversary Event, Washington, D.C. – October 28-29, 2021
- q. Football – Hawaii at USU – October 30, 2021
- r. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Elizabeth Fauth – November 1, 2021
- s. Women's Basketball – Fort Lewis College at USU – November 1, 2021
- t. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Christine Cooper Rompato – November 2, 2021
- u. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Kacy Lundstrom – November 3, 2021
- v. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Abby Benninghoff – November 4, 2021
- w. Football – USU at New Mexico State – November 6, 2021
- x. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Li Guo – November 8, 2021
- y. Men's Basketball – UC Davis at USU – November 9, 2021
- z. Women's Basketball – Westminster College at USU – November 9, 2021
- aa. Association of Public Land-grant Universities Board of Directors Virtual Meeting – November 10, 2021
- bb. Utah System of Higher Education President Retreat, Salt Lake City, Utah – November 11-12, 2021
- cc. Men's Basketball – USU vs Richmond at Veterans Classic – November 12, 2021
- dd. Women's Basketball – Cal State Fullerton at USU – November 13, 2021
- ee. Football – USU at San Jose State – November 13, 2021
- ff. Association of Public Land-grant Universities Annual Meetings – November 15-17, 2021
- gg. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Becki Lawver – November 15, 2021
- hh. Space Dynamics Laboratory Board of Directors Dinner – November 15, 2021
- ii. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Michael Levin – November 16, 2021
- jj. Women's Basketball – USU at California – November 16, 2021
- kk. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities Virtual Annual Conference – November 17-19, 2021
- ll. Envision Utah Executive Committee Virtual Meeting – November 18, 2021
- mm. Inaugural Professor Lecture, Jim Feigenbaum – November 18, 2021
- nn. Men's Basketball – USU at Myrtle Beach Invitational – November 18-21, 2021
- oo. Utah Board of Higher Education Meetings, Davis Technical College, Kaysville, Utah – November 19, 2021
- pp. Women's Basketball – Loyola Marymount at USU – November 19, 2021
- qq. Football – Wyoming at USU – November 20, 2021
- rr. Women's Basketball – USU at BYU – November 23, 2021
- ss. Football – USU at New Mexico – November 26, 2021
- tt. Women's Basketball – USU at Southeastern Louisiana – November 27,

2021

- uu. Men's Basketball – UT Arlington at USU – November 27, 2021
- vv. Men's Basketball – Carroll College (Mont) at USU – November 29, 2021
- ww. Women's Basketball – Dixie State at USU – December 1, 2021
- xx. Men's Basketball – St. Mary's at USU – December 2, 2021
- yy. USU Board of Trustees Virtual Meeting – December 3, 2021

2. Upcoming Events

- a. Women's Basketball – USU at UTEP – December 4, 2021
- b. Football – Mountain West Championship Game (TBD) – December 4, 2021
- c. Envision Utah Board of Directors Virtual Meeting – December 8, 2021
- d. Women's Basketball – Arkansas State at USU – December 8, 2021
- e. Men's Basketball – USU at BYU – December 8, 2021
- f. Women's Basketball – USU at Ball State – December 11, 2021
- g. Men's Basketball – New Orleans at USU – December 11, 2021
- h. Mountain West Board Meetings, Phoenix, Arizona – December 12-13, 2021
- i. Speak at Institute of Land, Water, and Air Naming and Report Presentation to Governor Spencer Cox, Salt Lake City, Utah – December 14, 2021
- j. Men's Basketball – USU at Weber State – December 15, 2021
- k. Men's Basketball – USU at Iowa – December 18, 2021
- l. Women's Basketball – USU at Montana – December 20, 2021
- m. Men's Basketball – Portland at USU – December 21, 2021
- n. Men's Basketball – USU at Air Force – December 28, 2021
- o. Women's Basketball – Air Force at USU – December 31, 2021
- p. Men's Basketball – San Jose State at USU – January 1, 2022
- q. Women's Basketball – USU at Nevada – January 3, 2022
- r. Men's Basketball – Boise State at USU – January 4, 2022
- s. Regence Community Board Virtual Meeting – January 5, 2022
- t. Women's Basketball – New Mexico at USU – January 6, 2022
- u. Remarks at Research Breaking Year Event with University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah – January 7, 2022
- v. Men's Basketball – USU at New Mexico – January 8, 2022
- w. International Plant & Animal Genome XXIX Meetings, San Diego, California – January 8-13, 2022
- x. Women's Basketball – USU at Boise State – January 9, 2022
- y. Men's Basketball – USU at Colorado State – January 12, 2022
- z. Remarks at Blue Plate Research, Salt Lake City, Utah – January 13, 2022
- aa. Women's Basketball – USU at San Diego State – January 13, 2022
- bb. Remarks at Pre-Legislative Reception, Kaysville, Utah – January 13, 2022
- cc. Utah Board of Higher Education Meeting, Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City, Utah – January 14, 2022
- dd. Women's Basketball – USU at UNLV – January 15, 2022
- ee. Men's Basketball – Wyoming at USU – January 15, 2022
- ff. Men's Basketball – USU at Fresno State – January 18, 2022
- gg. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities Board Meetings, Seattle, Washington – January 18-20, 2022
- hh. Women's Basketball – Colorado State at USU – January 19, 2022
- ii. USU Board of Trustees – January 21, 2022

C. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on October 15, 2021
2. Honorary Degrees and Commencement Speaker Resolution (Appendix C) [Resolution 21-12-01]
3. Academic Approvals/Program Reviews
 - a. College of Engineering Undergraduate Degrees Program Review (Appendix D) [Resolution 21-12-02]
 - b. Interior Design Program Review (Appendix E) [Resolution 21-12-03]
 - c. Additive Manufacturing Certificate of Proficiency (Appendix F) [Resolution 21-12-04]
 - d. Welding Technology Certificate of Proficiency (Appendix G) [Resolution 21-12-05]
 - e. Institutional Certificate of Proficiency in Career and Technical Education (Appendix H) [Resolution 21-12-06]
 - f. Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Advanced Practices in Dietetics (Appendix I) [Resolution 21-12-07]
 - g. Literature, Culture and Composition Specialization (Appendix J) [Resolution 21-12-08]
 - h. Institutional Certificate of Proficiency in Conflict Management and Facilitation (Appendix K) [Resolution 21-12-09]
 - i. Certificate of Proficiency in Leadership and Diplomacy (Appendix L) [Resolution 21-12-10]
 - j. Transforming Communities Institute (Appendix M) [Resolution 21-12-11]
 - k. Institute of Land, Water, and Air (Appendix N) [Resolution 21-12-12]
4. Capital Improvement Priority List for FY 2022-23 (Appendix O) [Resolution 21-12-13]
5. Report of Institutional Discretionary Funds (Appendix P) [Resolution 21-12-14]
6. Recommendations for Re-appointment to Space Dynamics Laboratory Board of Directors for Three-year Terms
 - a. Neil Abercrombie (Appendix Q) [Resolution 21-12-15]
 - b. Robert Lightfoot, Jr. (Appendix R) [Resolution 21-12-16]
 - c. Rich McKeown (Appendix S) [Resolution 21-12-17]
 - d. Ken White (Appendix T) [Resolution 21-12-18]

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

D. ACTION AGENDA

1. Changes to 400-Level Policies

- a. Policy 401.3.3 Tenured and Tenure-Eligible Faculty – Academic Ranks: Librarians (Appendix U) [Resolution 21-12-19]
- b. Policy 403.3.1 Standards of Conduct – Faculty Responsibilities to Student (Appendix V) [Resolution 21-12-20]
- c. Policy 403.3.2 Standards of Conduct – Professional Obligations (Appendix W) [Resolution 21-12-21]
- d. Policy 405.3.1 Tenure and Promotion: Criteria for Librarians (Appendix X) [Resolution 21-12-22]

These four policy changes are adjustments from the Faculty Senate. Tenure eligibility for librarians was not consistent with other tenure-eligible faculty. The changes include setting a degree level needed for tenure consideration. If that degree is not held, a status is set for the librarian to hold until the degree is acquired.

Policies related to sexual harassment were not in line with Utah state law and USU human resources policies. Changes focus on aligning the faculty code with USU policy.

Action: Trustee Steve Palmer moved to approve Policies 401.3.3, 403.3.1, 403.3.2, and 405.3.1. Trustee Kacie Malouf seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

2. Real Property Disposition (Moab) (Appendix Y) [Resolution 21-12-23]

Vice President Dave Cowley said the Moab building construction is going well despite some delays due to materials shortages. The building should be completed by the end of February. USU received an offer on the property for sale of \$4M by a company interested in establishing a community health clinic. The transaction should close by the end of January.

Action: Trustee John Ferry moved to approve the Real Property Disposition in Moab. Trustee David Huntsman seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

3. Real Property Acquisition (Blanding) (Appendix Z) [Resolution 21-12-24]

Vice President Cowley stated that the building in Blanding is nearing the end of the design phase. Recently, a lot behind USU's building has become available for purchase. There is a ten-foot strip between the two properties owned by the City of Blanding. The city council has expressed a general willingness to sell that strip as long as USU gives the city a long-term easement since the strip was a drainage route for storm water. If an agreement with the city for purchase of the strip of land cannot be reached, USU will request a permanent easement to be able to access the new property from the old property.

Action: Trustee David Huntsman moved to approve the Real Property Acquisition on the contingency that the issue with the ten-foot strip of land between properties is resolved with the City of Blanding. Trustee Dave Petersen seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

4. Faculty Adjustments (Appendix AA) [Resolution 21-12-25]
 - a. Richard L. Walker, Jr., Associate Dean for Student Development, Caine College of the Arts, to also be Associate Professor with tenure, Department of Music, Caine College of the Arts, effective 01 January 2022
 - b. Julie K. Young, Associate Professor FR (Federal Research), Department of Wildland Resources, S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources, to be Associate Professor with tenure of the same, effective 01 January 2022

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

E. INFORMATION AGENDA

1. Bad Debt Write-off for Fiscal Year Ending 30 June 2021 (Appendix BB)

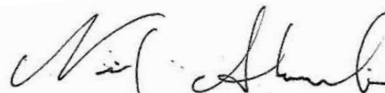
Chair Alder asked if there were any other items the Trustees would like to discuss before the meeting closed; none were mentioned.

Action: Trustee Gina Gagon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee David Huntsman seconded the motion; voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.



Kent K. Alder, Chair



Neil N. Abercrombie, Secretary
(Minutes taken by Sydney Peterson and
Teresa Denton)

January 21, 2022

Date Approved