



# USU Board of Trustees Regular VIRTUAL Meeting Minutes

USU Board of Trustees Feb 10, 2023 at 9:00 AM MST

## Attendance

### Present:

#### Board of Trustees:

Clara Alder (remote)

Kent K. Alder – Chair (remote)

John Y. Ferry – Vice Chair (remote)

Gina Gagon (remote)

David H. Huntsman (remote)

**Absent:** Wayne L. Niederhauser

Kacie Malouf (remote)

Steve Palmer (remote)

David A. Petersen (remote)

Jacey Skinner (remote)

Tessa White (remote)

#### Utah State University Representatives:

Jodi Bailey (remote)

Paul Barr (remote)

Lisa Berreau (remote)

Jerry Bovee (remote)

Janalyn Brown (remote)

Noelle Cockett (remote)

Dave Cowley (remote)

John Ferguson (remote)

Nancy Hanks (remote)

Jane Irungu (remote)

Mica McKinney (remote)

Eric Olsen (remote)

Bill Plate (remote)

Larry Smith (remote)

Brian Steed (remote)

Robert Wagner (remote)

Ken White (remote)

Matt White (remote)

Devin Wiser (remote)

#### Utah Board of Higher Education:

Jesselie Anderson (remote)

Julie Hartley (remote)

Scott Theurer (remote)

### Guests:

Jody Burnett (remote)

1. Welcome and Introductory Items - Chair Kent Alder

Chair Alder welcomed all attendees. The 2023-2024 Board of Trustees meeting calendar is listed in the Consent Agenda. Chair Alder asked the Trustees to look at it and add the upcoming dates to their calendars.

Alder mentioned each of the Trustees have been signed up for an AGB membership and should begin to get email information as well as the Trusteeship magazine.

The Utah Board of Higher Education (UBHE) recently had a meeting with trustee chairs and vice chairs to get feedback. The agenda discussion included Governor Cox's proposed tuition freeze, possible 8.75% raise for state employees, but legislatures must approve. UBHE currently has 18 board members. This number will go down to 9-10 members in July (10th member will be a student representative). A new board will be appointed by Governor Cox. With less board members, more responsibility will be delegated to each institution's Board of Trustees. The Presidential Search Committee is on track and is ready to post the job description soon.

2. Closed Session

**Motion:**

Motion to go into closed session was made at 9:12 a.m.

Motion made by Trustee Ferry and motion seconded by Trustee Petersen. Unanimous roll call vote was taken by the Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

**Motion:**

Motion was made to end the closed session at 9:49 a.m.

Motion made by Trustee Huntsman and motion seconded by Trustee Ferry. All were in favor and the regular meeting continued.

3. President's Report - President Noelle Cockett

President Cockett thanked Vice President Devin Wisser and Director of Community Partnerships Jennifer Seelig for organizing many visits for her to meet with various legislators at the Utah State Capitol in Salt Lake City. Great things are happening for USU. The release of the Salt Lake Basin report and the creation of a Great Salt Lake Strike Team both are being led by USU Executive Director Brian Steed and others, including William

Anderegg, director of the University of Utah (UofU) Wilkes Center for Climate Science and Policy. Both institutions have joined together in their efforts. President Cockett mentioned both research universities joined to make a presentation earlier in the legislative session. UofU focused on technology and economic impact and USU focused on outreach for the entire state. Both institutions connect and complement each other.

3.1. Legislative Updates - Vice President Devin Wisler and Executive Director Brian Steed

Vice President Wisler shared the Utah State Higher Education Appropriations list and how each of Utah State University's proposals were ranked. Wisler mentioned all USU asks are set to elevate the state of Utah as a whole, which will help them to be put through.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1. Approve: Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting held January 6, 2023

4.2. Approve: Recommendation for 2023 Honorary Degrees (resolution revision)

4.3. Approve: Space Dynamics Laboratory Board of Directors Appointee - Elizabeth Maude Young

4.4. Approve: Board of Trustees 2023-2024 Regular Meeting Schedule

**Motion:**

At 10:09am a motion was made by Trustee White to accept the Consent Agenda and a second by Trustee Malouf. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

5.1. Review and accept: Athletic Department Agreed-upon Procedures Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2022 - Vice President Dave Cowley

Chief Audit Executive Bailey accepted the agreed-upon procedures as recommended. Vice President Cowley had no findings or exceptions on the NCAA report.

**Motion:**

At 10:11am a motion was made by Trustee Palmer and a second made by Trustee Huntsman to accept the NCAA procedures report. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the motion passed.

5.2. Approve: Proposed Ground Lease with Uintah School District for Uintah Basin Early Childhood Education Center - Vice President Dave Cowley

Vice President Cowley stated the included executive summary in the resolution was lengthy and the item will go to the Utah Board of Higher Education (UBHE) if approved by USU Board of Trustees.

The Uintah School District would like to build an early education childhood center on land leased from USU. This center would be full-service, not just a preschool. It would include classrooms and offices and makes sense to have on our Uintah Basin campus. The center would allow Uintah School District to lease land and build a building, in which USU will have access to office space. Cowley assured this is a value-for-value exchange and will be a big benefit to the university.

Provost Larry Smith added there are many great advantages to this agreement. The new building will be a place for faculty to participate in early childhood research and for USU student internships, similar to the Sorenson Center on the Logan campus.

**Motion:**

At 10:18am a motion was made by Trustee Ferry and a second made by Trustee White to approve a ground lease with Uintah School District for Uintah Basin Early Childhood Education Center. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the motion passed.

6. Information Agenda

6.1. Report of Investments for September 2022

6.2. President's Recent and Upcoming Events

**Motion:**

At 10:21am a motion was made by Trustee Ferry and a second by Trustee Huntsman to adjourn was made. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the motion passed.

7. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 10:22am.

---

Kent K. Alder, Chair

---

Janalyn Brown, Secretary  
(minutes taken by Janalyn Brown)

---

Date Approved