

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Utah State University, Logan, Utah
December 2, 2022

Minutes of the Regular Session of the Utah State University Board of Trustees held at Space Dynamics Laboratory and via Zoom videoconferencing, commencing at 9:11 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kent K. Alder (Chair)	Wayne Niederhauser
John Y. Ferry (Vice Chair)	Steven L. Palmer
Clara Alder	David A. Petersen (virtual)
Gina Gagon	Jacey Skinner
David H. Huntsman	Tessa White

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Doug Anderson	Dean, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
Jodi Bailey	Chief Audit Executive
Blair Barfuss	Chief of Police
Lisa Berreau	Vice President, Research
Janalyn Brown	Secretary of the Board of Trustees
Noelle E. Cockett	President
David T. Cowley	Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services
Amanda DeRito	Associate Vice President for Strategic Communications
Rich Etchberger	Interim Vice President, Statewide Campuses
John Ferguson	President, Faculty Senate
Jed Hancock	President, Space Dynamics Laboratory
Brandon Hansen	President, Staff Employee Association
Nancy Hanks	Executive Assistant to the President
Jeff Hunter	Photographer
Jane Irungu	Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Mica A. McKinney	General Counsel and Vice President, Legal Affairs
Eric Olsen	Interim Vice President, Student Affairs
William M. Plate	Vice President, University Marketing and Communications
Larry Smith	Provost
Brian Steed	Executive Director, Institute of Land, Water and Air
Robert Wagner	Executive Vice President
Lane Weaver	Assistant Professor, Caine College of the Arts
Ken White	Vice President/Dean, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
Matt White	Vice President, Advancement
Devin Wiser	Vice President, Government and External Relations

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT

Jesslie Anderson	Vice Chair, Utah Board of Higher Education
Julie Hartley	Associate Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education
Ava Jennings	Student Commendation Recipient
Courtney Tanner	Reporter, Salt Lake Tribune
Scott L. Theurer	Member, Utah Board of Higher Education

Beth Weaver

Lane Weaver spouse

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

Chair Alder called the meeting to order. He welcomed and thanked those present for their attendance. Chair Alder spoke of the meeting he and Vice Chair Ferry attended in Cedar City, Utah, in September. The Utah Board of Higher Education would like to have more interaction with each Utah higher education institution's Board of Trustees. Chair Alder also spoke of the upcoming transition to a new USU President in July. He thanked President Cockett for her many years of hard work and dedication to the University.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Alder asked Vice President Cowley to speak to the group about what it will look like for the institution if Utah Governor Spencer Cox were to freeze tuition increases. Cowley shared a financial analysis report which included information from FY17 through FY22.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1. Executive Committee – Chair Alder indicated this committee met to set the December 2022 Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

4.2. Academic Approval Committee – Trustee Neiderhauser shared all items from their committee listed on either the consent or action agenda have been vetted by the group. Neiderhauser is impressed with the forms provided and the attention to detail given by the group. They approved four new certificates, two new emphases, new Alzheimer's Research Center, one name change, three new minors, new department in veterinary medicine, four new bachelor's degrees, etc. Much detail was reviewed within the committee, and more will be done in the upcoming January meeting as well.

4.3. Recruitment, Retention and Completion Committee – Chair Gagon discussed right now is the prime student recruiting season for fall 2023. The team has implemented an auto admit process which has reduced the amount of manual review needed and will serve well moving forward. Applications are up significantly. The application fee was waived during higher education week. This was in preparation for an upcoming mandate from the Utah System of Higher Education which states all institutions will be required to waive application fees. Gagon mentioned this will cause some budgetary challenges as they will be short an estimated \$1.5 million. Traditionally, USU has not offered many 4-year scholarship awards, but they are working toward offering more by 2024 which will help with recruitment.

4.4. Marketing and Communications Committee – Chair Skinner stated the marketing team has been working on several projects, including talking points with Trustee White, scheduling opportunities to help President Cockett meet with trustee contacts, Aggie Impact advertisements, fall marketing campaigns, digital campaigns, targeted campaigns, strategic marketing, key messages, and highlighting the Institute of Land, Water and Air. Vice President Plate's team is

focusing on first year enrollment, mental health, football scholarships, and billboards.

4.5 Student Health, Safety and Well-being Committee – Chair Huntsman reported some costs of the institution are going up in part due to student health, safety and well-being needs which are also on the rise. Huntsman commended the university as well as Interim Vice President Eric Olsen for their commitment to being proactive rather than responsive to both student and institutional needs. The team is working to identify students of distress or concern – any student with mental health which may put them at risk or unable to function in a way which is expected of a student. These struggles may be due to relationships, academic stress, or financial needs. Olsen mentioned nationally 35-40% of incoming freshman begin college with a previous diagnosis of depression or anxiety, many of which have been in weekly therapy and/or taking medication. Utah State has an online reporting system where roommates, family, faculty, etc. can file a report about a situation that may need intervention. The number of students needing support is growing. One of the main areas of concern is staffing issues. These jobs are difficult to fill due to the high stress level and late or overnight hours needed. Olsen stated they are looking for crisis workers who are embedded in the residence halls on campus. President Cockett reiterated the Title IX office is having difficulty filling positions as well. Trustee Neiderhauser agreed there is a great demand for social workers and mental health providers, especially due to the high stress most are under.

4.6 Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee – Trustee Petersen mentioned this committee met the previous day. He is impressed with the preparation of Jodi Bailey and Mica McKinney. The team focused on risk and audit, cyber security, bad actors, conflict of interest policy, senior risk management, and acknowledged emerging risks. The audit process is an ongoing effort, and all are aware and trained in compliance.

5. Trustee White is in process of finalizing talking points for each of the trustees to use to highlight Utah State when meeting with others. She believes these points are more powerful when using individual or personal examples. She is very close to sending them out to the board.

6. Overview of University Units – Space Dynamics Laboratory (SDL), President Jed Hancock

President Hancock shared a PowerPoint presentation overview of the history of SDL and several highpoints of what their work has allowed them to take part in.

7. Introduction of Vice President of Government and External Relations Devin Wisner and overview of legislative requests for the 2023 session.

President Cockett introduced Vice President Wisner who recently replaced Neil Abercrombie. Wisner worked at Weber State University in a similar role and graduated from Utah State University with his bachelor's degree years ago. Wisner feels the 2023 legislative requests are quite modest given the big asks during the 2022 legislative session.

Advancing Sustainability through Powered Infrastructure for Roadway Electrification (ASPIRE) and Regan Zane are asking for \$2 million in ongoing funds for continuing research, a statewide ecosystem and to create an entity which will provide an annual status report on roadway electrification.

Bingham Research Center, housed on the Uintah Basin campus, is asking that their 2016 legislative funds be extended and increased to \$400,000 ongoing. Wisner indicated USU is looking at projects that will benefit the state of Utah at large.

Medical and Community Service Interpretation is asking for \$156,000 ongoing (or 3-year trial ask) which would develop an array of academic programs to prepare more certified medical interpreters in Utah in which there is a huge need.

Earthquake Engineering Center is being spearheaded by USU College of Engineering Dean Kaluarachchi. This is a one-time \$3 million ask for equipment and technology only. This is not a building. University of Utah currently has a seismograph station which focuses on where and when an earthquake will occur. Utah is lagging behind in earthquake engineering efforts though. This center would work on bettering Utah's infrastructure and provide training for people to get society up and running in the event of a major earthquake. Utah State will work with the University of Utah in sharing data to help prepare Utah if the need arises.

Agriculture and Rural Small Business Innovation and Sustainability Initiative will provide training and resources directly to producers to help get their goods to consumers so Utahns can buy Utah products. This is a one-time ask of \$450,000 for a 3-year trial period.

Rural Behavioral Health Training Workforce Incentivization and Clinical Services has been a priority for Governor Cox. The ask is \$687,000 ongoing and Wisner mentioned they are currently working to obtain a sponsor. The Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council (USAHV+) will probably lead the efforts on this and USU will provide backup help as needed.

Brian Steed, Executive Director Institute of Land, Water and Air

Executive Director Steed shared the report given to Governor Cox the day prior. The event went well and all in attendance agreed.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

8.1 Student Resolution and Commendation was presented and read by Trustee Clara Alder who recognized USU Logan student Ava Jennings.

9. TRUSTEE RECOGNITION

President Cockett presented the December Trustee Recognition to USU Caine College of the Arts Professor Lane Weaver and read his letter of commendation written by Caine College of the Arts Interim Dean Nick Morrison. Cockett presented Weaver with a gift from the Board of Trustees and congratulated him on his hard work and dedication.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

8.2 Update on University Vision and Strategic Plan Outcomes

President Cockett shared a strategic plan draft booklet titled “Aggie Action 2028” with each attendee. The printing project was directed by Vice President Plate and his team. President Cockett did not request full approval of the entire plan but parts of it which are needed to move into the strategies needed to complete the plan. Approval will be requested later in the meeting in the action agenda item 11.6. Input from stakeholders on objectives is currently being solicited to complete the plan and are due January 15, 2023. President Cockett believes the people are how the plan will be successful and is confident the plan will strengthen the Aggie staff and culture.

President Cockett congratulated Vice President of Advancement Matt White and the USU Foundation Board for winning the prestigious John W. Nason Award presented by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB). This honor is given to those who serve “at the pinnacle of excellence, go above and beyond what boards *should* do, and instead take board-driven measures to advance their institutions in ways that truly matter.”

10. CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Approve:

Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting held October 14, 2022

10.2 Approve:

Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting held on October 31, 2022

10.3 Approve:

Capital Improvement Priority List for FY2023-24

10.4 Approve:

Report of Institutional Discretionary Funds for 2021-2022 (Actual), 2022-2023 (Estimate), and 2023-2024 (Estimate) and Institutional Discretionary Funds Supplemental Report of Budget Variances for the Fiscal Year Ended 3- June 2022

10.5 Approve:

Reports of Auxiliary and Service Enterprises for FY2021-22

10.6 Approve certificate:

The Department of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences proposes offering an Institutional Certificate of Proficiency in Global Agriculture, Leadership and Education

10.7 Approve certificate:

The Department of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences proposes offering an Institutional Certificate of Proficiency in Fashion Studies

10.8 Approve emphasis:

The Department of Aviation and Technical Education in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences proposes offering an Agricultural Production and Automated Processing Technology Emphasis in the General Technology AAS

10.9 Discontinue certificate:

The Department of Aviation and Technical Education in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences proposes discontinuing the Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate of Completion

10.10 Discontinue certificate:

The Department of Aviation and Technical Education in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences proposes discontinuing the Office Computer Systems Certificate of Completion

10.11 Discontinue certificate:

The Department of Aviation and Technical Education in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences proposes discontinuing the Phlebotomy Certificate of Completion

10.12 Approve certificate:

The Department of Aviation and Technical Education in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences proposes offering an Institutional Certificate of Proficiency in Quality and Reliability

10.13 Approve emphasis:

The Department of Music in the Caine College of the Arts proposes creating an optional emphasis in Composition within the current Bachelor of Art in Music

10.14 Approve center:

The Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services proposes establishing an Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Research Center

10.15 Approve minor name change:

The Department of Human Development and Family Studies proposes changing the name of the Family and Human Development Minor to Human Development and Family Studies Minor

10.16 Approve certificate:

The Departments of Computer Science and Mathematics and Statistics proposes offering a Data Science Graduate Certificate

10.17 Approve minor:

The Departments of Computer Science and Mathematics and Statistics proposes offering a Data Science Minor

10.18 Approve new department:

The College of Veterinary Medicine proposes a new department to be named Department of Veterinary Clinical and Life Sciences

10.19 Approve minor:

The Department of Marketing and Strategy proposes creating a Marketing Design Minor

10.20 Approve minor:

The Department of Management proposes creating a People and Organizations Minor

10.21 Approve suspension of degree:

The Department of Market and Strategy proposes suspending the International Business Bachelor of Art and Bachelor of Science degrees

10.22 Approve:

Faculty Code 401 Composition and Authority of the Faculty

Action: Trustee Neiderhauser moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Trustee Huntsman seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the motion passed.

11. ACTION AGENDA

11.1 Approve property exchange:

Real Property Acquisition by Exchange – property located adjacent to the Bastian Agricultural Center (BAC) – Vice President Dave Cowley

Vice President Cowley explained when the previous exchange with Salt Lake County occurred which gave USU the land now known as the Bastian Agricultural Center, the transaction came with a small sliver of land which the county had allowed the owners of the adjacent property to lease and use. The current exchange is this piece of land for another (slightly larger) adjacent parcel which benefits Utah State and the Center.

Action: Chair Alder called for a motion to approve a real property acquisition by exchange. The motion was made. Trustee Palmer seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the motion passed.

11.2 Approve Bachelor of Science degree:

The Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences proposes offering a Bachelor of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences – Provost Larry Smith

11.3 Approve Bachelor of Science degree:

The Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences proposes offering a Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology – Provost Larry Smith

11.4 Approve Bachelor of Science Degree:

The Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences proposes offering a Bachelor of Science in Bioveterinary Science – Provost Larry Smith

11.5 Approve Bachelor of Science degree:

The Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences proposes offering a Bachelor of Science in Equine Science and Management – Provost Larry Smith

Provost Smith petitioned the board to combine items 11.2 through 11.5 and approve them all as one item. Chair Alder agreed.

Action: Chair Alder called for a motion to approve Bachelor of Science degree agenda items 11.2 through 11.5. Trustee Neiderhauser moved to approve. Trustee Gagon seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the motion passed.

11.6 Approve:

USU Strategic Plan Mission, Vision and Strategic Direction – President Noelle Cockett

Action: Chair Alder called for a motion to approve the USU Strategic Plan Mission, Vision and Direction as presented today and as a living document. Trustee Ferry moved to approve. Trustee Clara Alder seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the motion passed.

11.7 Approve:

Public Interest Uses for the Proceeds from Disposition of Property – Vice President Mica McKinney and USU Chief of Police Blair Barfuss

Action: Chair Alder called for a motion to approve the public interest uses for the proceeds from disposition of property. Trustee Palmer moved to approve. Trustee Neiderhauser seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the motion passed.

12. INFORMATION AGENDA

12.1 President's Recent and Upcoming Events

12.2 Revised Policy 523 Scholarship Awarding

12.3 USU Annual Security Report

12.4 Office of Equity Annual Report

12.5 USU Center for Community Engagement Annual Report

Chair Alder thanked all for their participation and attendance.

Action: Chair Alder called for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting with a tour of Space Dynamics Laboratory given by President Jed Hancock after the meeting ends. Trustee Clara Alder moved to adjourn. Trustee Huntsman seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.



Kent K. Alder, Chair



Janalyn Brown, Secretary
(Minutes taken by Janalyn Brown)

January 6, 2023

Date Approved