



USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 27, 2024 at 8:30 AM MDT

via Zoom ONLY:

<https://usu-edu.zoom.us/j/84625521078?pwd=VZKlmp8uLd9s7T3CceiKMA9KFNPnVE.1&from=addon>

Attendance

Trustees present:

Jacey Skinner (Chair)

Kent K. Alder

John Y. Ferry

Kacie Malouf

David Petersen

Matthew Richey

Tessa White

Clark Whitworth

Trustees absent:

Gina Gagon

David H. Huntsman

Heather Mason

University representatives present:

Jodi Bailey

Janalyn Brown

Dave Cowley

Kerri Davidson

Nancy Hanks

Haley Klaassen

Mica McKinney

John O'Neil

Bill Plate

Ken White

Matt White

Devin Wisner

Steve Campbell

Grant Cardon

Krystin Deschamps

Crystal Giordano

Jana Lee Johnson

Susan Koch

John Mortensen

Katie Jo North

Diana Sabau

James Taylor

University representatives absent:

Elizabeth Cantwell

1. Welcome (Presenters: Chair Jacey Skinner)

Chair Skinner called the meeting to order at 8:35am and excused President Cantwell's absence. Skinner thanked President Cantwell and Vice President Sabau for their work with the PAC-12. Sabau expressed gratitude for the support from everyone and for the relationships they help build.

2. CLOSED SESSION

Motion:

Trustee Alder moved that in accordance with 52-4-205 of the Utah Code that the Trustees go into a closed Executive Session for the sole purpose of discussing the

character, professional competence, physical or mental health of individuals, pending or reasonably imminent litigation, and the possible sale of real property.

Motion seconded by Trustee Malouf. Roll call vote was initiated by Janalyn Brown. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative and the meeting moved to a closed session which commenced at 8:38am and concluded at 9:08am.

Attendance:

Trustees present:

Jacey Skinner (Chair)
Kent Alder
John Ferry
Kacie Malouf

David Petersen
Matthew Richey
Clark Whitworth

Trustees absent:

Gina Gagon
David Huntsman

Heather Mason
Tessa White

University representatives present:

Janalyn Brown
Kerri Davidson

Mica McKinney

Absent:

Elizabeth Cantwell

3. President's Report and Year in Review (Presenter: Vice President Kerri Davidson)

Vice President Davidson shared the President's Report in President Cantwell's absence and highlighted USU's strides to continuing excellence and shared the latest "Year in Review" which emphasizes the Top 10 accomplishments of USU. Davidson promised to send hard copies to each of the trustees.

4. Committee Reports

4.1. Executive Committee (Presenter: Chair Jacey Skinner)

Committee Chair Skinner shared the Executive Committee met to approve the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting agenda and to review both consent and action items.

4.2. Audit, Risk and Compliance (Presenter: Trustee David Petersen)

Committee Chair Petersen presented the attached committee report.

4.3. Recruitment, Retention and Completion Committee (Presenter: Trustee Tessa White)

Committee Chair White presented the attached committee report. White also applauded Katie Jo North who has done a phenomenal job in empowering her team and helped to push students over the "finish line" of enrollment.

5. Consent Agenda

Motion:

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion moved by David Petersen and motion seconded by John Ferry. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

- 5.1. Approve: Space Dynamics Laboratory Board Director Reappointment, General Bruce Carlson
- 5.2. Approve: 8.23.24 USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

6. Action Agenda

- 6.1. Approve: Authorization to Act in Capacity of Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Public Treasurer (Presenter: Vice President Dave Cowley)

Because USU Controller Dan Christensen retired, there needs to be an authorized signer named in addition to Vice President Dave Cowley. Cowley presented Dwight Davis, Associate Vice President for Finance & Administrative Services for approval as the only additional authorized signer.

Motion:

Motion was made to approve the Authorization to Act in Capacity of Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Public Treasurer as presented.

Motion moved by Kent Alder and motion seconded by Clark Whitworth. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

- 6.2. Approve: Authorization to Adjust Summer Term Tuition Tables (Presenter: Vice President Dave Cowley)

Vice President Cowley clarified this proposal has two parts. First, tuition increases approved in March by the Board of Higher Education take effect in the summer semester. This is a proposal to change this timeline so that increases begin in the fall semester, followed by spring and summer. This change aligns with other universities in the state and allows more time to inform and prepare students about tuition changes. This proposal benefits USU by improving their ability to market summer classes and provide students with more planning time.

Second, USU's current tuition structure front-loads cost, which burdens students taking fewer credits, particularly in the summer when most enroll in only 1-2 classes. This proposal is to adjust the summer tuition schedule for students taking between 1-9 credit hours, with savings diminishing for those students taking more credits. The expected savings are approximately \$500 for those students taking on 3-credit class, and \$250 for those taking two classes. This affordable tuition will be a benefit to the institution and USU students by encouraging additional

enrollment and supporting students in staying on track for graduation.

USU's John Mortensen joined the discussion and when asked about the reasoning, he stated it will help immensely with student momentum, retention and completion. If approved by the Board of Trustees, Cowley will take the proposal to the Utah Board of Higher Education for final approval.

Motion:

Motion was made to authorize adjustment of summer term tuition tables.

Motion moved by John Ferry and motion seconded by Tessa White. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

6.3. Approve: 800 East Residence Hall (a Non-State Funded Capital Development Project) (Presenter: Vice President Dave Cowley)

Vice President Cowley explained the university aims to increase on-campus housing to support more freshman commitments, ensuring that incoming students can secure housing. A growing number of sophomores also wish to stay on campus due to proven academic benefits, though most students prefer to move off-campus by junior year. The proposed location for a new housing structure is on the west side of the main campus, near the Wayne Estes Center and the Spectrum, where a former fraternity house was located. The project includes a building with up to 478 beds and an underground parking facility with 350 stalls, leveraging the natural slope for daylight and eliminating the need for costly ventilation. The estimated cost is \$101 million: \$77 million for housing and \$23 million for parking.

Approval from the Board of Higher Education and legislative bonding authority are required to proceed with detailed programming and design phases. Once finalized, further board approvals will ensure alignment on bond details and financial feasibility. Approval from the Board of Trustees and the Board of Higher Education will initiate the request for bonding authority from the legislature. Further design and cost assessments will follow, with the board reviewing final specifications and financials before bonds are issued.

Much discussion was had about cost, feasibility, return on investment, and next steps. Trustee Richey stated the proposed project may impact the Greek community, as the loss of fraternity space remains a concern among members. Currently, there are two housed fraternities and six total chapters, with limited housing options. While this remains a strong proposal, it may lead to some dissatisfaction within the growing fraternity and sorority community and will require sensitivity to their concerns.

Chair Skinner recommended moving forward with project authorization to allow next steps. However, before pursuing bonding, accruing debt, or starting

construction, a follow-up presentation with detailed project specifics and financials is required.

Motion:

Motion to authorize moving forward on the 800 East Residence Hall (a Non-State Funded Capital Development Project) to allow next steps. However, before pursuing bonding, accruing debt, or starting construction, Vice President Cowley will follow-up to the Board with detailed project specifics and financials.

Motion moved by John Ferry and motion seconded by Kent Alder. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed. Board of Trustee members voting: Trustee Ferry, Trustee Whitworth, Trustee Richey, Trustee Skinner, Trustee Alder, Trustee Petersen, and Trustee White.

7. Information Agenda

7.1. Policy 500: Threat Assessment Management Team (TAMT)

8. ADJOURN - 10:30AM

Chair Skinner expressed gratitude to each trustee for their dedication and contributions over the past year, which have significantly benefited the university. The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 8th.

Motion:

Motion was made to adjourn.

Motion moved by Tessa White and motion seconded by Clark Whitworth. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned at 10:52am.



Jacey Skinner, Chair



Janalyn Brown, Secretary
(minutes taken by Janalyn Brown)

November 8, 2024

Date Approved