



USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 9:00-11:00 AM MDT

University Inn, Logan, Utah, Sonne Board Room or

via Zoom: <https://usu-edu.zoom.us/j/86540687762?pwd=mEdKvz1WOYxQbbsMz6ZPGrQRt11Mz9.1>

Attendance:

Trustees:

Jacey Skinner, Chair
Gina Gagon, Vice Chair
Kent Alder
John Ferry (Zoom)

David Huntsman
Kacie Malouf
Heather Mason (Zoom)
Dave Petersen

Brandon Sorensen
Tessa White
Clark Whitworth

USU representatives:

Jeff Aird
Jodi Bailey (Zoom)
Lisa Berreau
Janalyn Brown
Doug Bullock (Zoom)
Jennifer Caines
Grant Cardon
David Cowley
Kerri Davidson
Clay Davis
Amanda DeRito (Zoom)
Krystin Deschamps

Alison Fabricious
Jared Gereau
Katie Jo North
JanaLee Johnson
Haley Klaassen
Mica McKinney
John O'Neil
Bill Plate
Matt Richey
Diana Sabau (Zoom)
Amy Shewan (Zoom)
Al Smith

Larry Smith
Brandon Sorensen
Brian Steed
MaKenzie Stock
James Taylor (Zoom)
Cameron West (Zoom)
Ken White
Matt White
Devin Wiser
Sam Zehe

Other Attendees:

Damon Cann

Angie Stallings

Courtney Tanner

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order

9:04 AM

Chair Jacey Skinner welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. Resolution of Commendation - Trustee Matthew Richey

9:07 AM

Presenter: Chair Jacey Skinner (see attached resolution of commendation)

Chair Skinner read the attached commendation and recognized and thanked President Matt Richey for the work he has done over the last year.

Matt Richey expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to be on the Board of Trustees.

3. Oath of Office - Brandon Sorensen

9:10 AM

Presenter: Notary Sam Zehe

Notary Sam Zehe swore in the new USUSA President and Trustee, Brandon Sorensen. The attached oath of office form was signed by Trustee Sorensen and stamped by Notary Sam Zehe at 9:12 AM. It will be filed with the Utah State Archives.

4. Committee Reports

9:13 AM

4.1. Executive Committee

Presenter: Chair Jacey Skinner

The reallocation process is underway, with the Board of Trustees engaged through reports and input on various policies, in close coordination with President Al Smith.

4.2. Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee

Presenter: Trustee David Petersen

Senior Vice President Mica McKinney is currently leading efforts to update the university's youth protection programming to align with best practices in the field. This includes enhancements to the reporting website to better highlight youth protection issues and clarify reporting obligations related to underage minors.

Vice President Dave Cowley provided an update on audit activities for the fiscal year.

4.3. Athletics Committee

Presenter: Trustee Clark Whitworth

Trustee Whitworth expressed confidence in the current trajectory of the athletics program, noting that student-athlete academic performance remains strong. With the transition into the PAC-12, the program is experiencing significant growth and change, requiring increased commitment across all areas.

Trustee Whitworth acknowledged the dedication of the athletics staff and noted that despite outside offers, coaches have remained at USU—crediting Diana Sabau's leadership.

Trustee Heather Mason shared her excitement about the direction of the athletics program and its future in the PAC-12. She emphasized that this transition represents a bold move forward for the university.

Vice President Diana Sabau presented detailed data to the subcommittee.

4.4. Recruitment, Retention and Completion Committee

Presenter: Trustee Tessa White

USU is slightly below the target retention rate set by Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) but remains in the middle range when compared to other universities in the state.

Enrollment trends are showing improvement, with an increase compared to the previous year. FAFSA submissions have also seen a notable rise, supported by the implementation of new software and the release of a new cost calculator that helps students make more informed financial decisions. USU is trending upward.

4.5. Student Health and Safety Committee

Presenter: Trustee David Huntsman

There have been two recent student deaths, one on the Logan campus, and one on the Blanding campus. These students were not known students of concern.

Interim Vice President Krystin Deschamps and her team continue to track and support students of concern. The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) program has been a great support for

students, especially those in academic distress with 85% of students utilizing CAPS, which helped them stay in school.

5. Staff Employee Association (SEA) Report

9:31 AM

Presenter: President JanaLee Johnson (see attached presentation)

Staff Employee Association (SEA) President JanaLee Johnson discussed the structure and services the SEA provides to USU staff. They aim to enhance staff experiences, foster professional development, and create a supportive environment for staff statewide.

6. President's Report

9:45 AM

Presenter: President Al Smith (see attached report for details)

Commencement ceremonies celebrated the awarding of nearly 8,000 degrees, with two honorary degree recipients, including Dr. Willy Lensch and Mr. Kem Gardner.

The recent accreditation site visit was successful, with the peer review team commending the university's engaged and supportive culture, academic offerings, and mission. Their recommendations align with current initiatives, including General Education reform, increased departmental involvement, and improved data sharing and collection. Appreciation was extended to Jeff Aird for his leadership in the accreditation process.

Ongoing administration efforts include strategic planning, statewide redesign, and work related to HB265. The university is actively preparing for PAC-12 integration, including legal and media rights agreements, under the leadership of Diana Sabau. A full athletics conference rebrand is underway.

A recent event at the Wanlass Center highlighted continued progress in art education and research, reflecting the university's broader mission and momentum.

7. STRATEGIC AGENDA

7.1. Update on Process of Reallocation Plan (HB265)

9:54 AM

Presenter: President Al Smith

The university is actively responding to HB265, which mandates a 10% reduction in the instructional budget. A \$12.6 million reallocation plan will be proposed to achieve greater efficiency while supporting institutional goals. This living document will guide changes over the next three years.

Key deadlines include:

Draft submission to USHE: May 9, 2025

Final submission to USHE: May 23, 2025

Presentation to Utah Board of Higher Education (UBHE): June 6, 2025

The process involves multiple levels of review and approval. Communications have been ongoing, with updates shared regarding college mergers and programs. Implementation begins July 1, with faculty and staff engagement critical to success.

Reallocation priorities include expanding institutional capacity in AI, strengthening health sciences and workforce development, and enhancing student support and graduate education. The proposal remains under active refinement through the submission deadline.

Board of Trustee members expressed appreciation for President Smith, Provost Smith, and the team leading the reallocation plan, noting that it is being guided by the university's most experienced and capable individuals.

7.2. Update on Research Funding
Presenter: Vice President Lisa Berreau (see presentation)

10:08 AM

A presentation was given on the significant disruption to federal research funding, with \$15–20 million in awards paused or terminated, leading to staff impacts and potential long-term effects on research capacity, data loss, and economic impact. Leadership discussed ongoing efforts to adapt, including building internal tools, increasing communication, and pursuing alternative funding and industry partnerships. Board members commended the transparency and resilience of the response, emphasizing the need for continued advocacy, collaboration with peer institutions, and support for affected students and faculty.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

10:43 AM

- 8.1.** Approve: 3.17.2025 USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
- 8.2.** Approve: 4.4.2025 USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
- 8.3.** Approve: Policy 3005 Employment-related Reasonable Access and Accommodation
- 8.4.** Approve: Policy 3203 Overtime
- 8.5.** Accept: External Audit Report

Motion:

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda. Motion moved by Trustee David Huntsman and motion seconded by Trustee Clark Whitworth. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

BREAK

10:44 AM

9. CLOSED SESSION

10:55 AM

Motion:

Vice Chair Gina Gagon moved that in accordance with 2-4-205 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 was seconded by Trustee David Petersen. 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 10:55 AM and concluded at 11:58 AM.

Attendance:

Trustees:

Jacey Skinner, Chair
Gina Gagon, Vice Chair
Kent Alder
David Huntsman

Kacie Malouf
Heather Mason (Zoom)
Dave Petersen
Brandon Sorensen

Tessa White
Clark Whitworth

USU representatives:

Janalyn Brown
Dave Cowley

Mica McKinney
Al Smith

Others:

Angie Stallings

10. INFORMATION AGENDA

10.1. College of Veterinary Medicine Accreditation

10.2. Report of Investments for January 2025

10.3. Next: USU Board of Trustees Regular Meeting will be held at the Uintah Basin Campus, Vernal, Utah - June 19 & 20, 2025

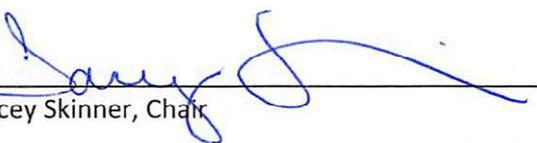
10.4. Upcoming: USU Board of Trustees Retreat, Community Dinner, Regular Meeting, and USU Luminary - August 21-22, 2025

11. Adjourn

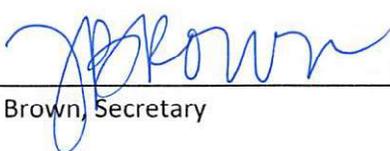
11:00 AM

Motion:

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion moved by Trustee Tessa White and motion seconded by Trustee David Petersen. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.



Jacey Skinner, Chair



Janalyn Brown, Secretary

June 20, 2025

Date Approved

