



**Utah Board of Higher Education  
Utah System of Higher Education  
Thursday, July 14, 2022**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES**

**Board Members Present**

Lisa-Michele Church, chair  
Jessellie Anderson, vice chair  
Grace Acosta  
Stan Albrecht  
Stacey Bettridge  
Rich Christiansen  
Hope Eccles  
Heather Johnson  
Patricia Jones  
Arthur Newell  
Shawn Newell  
Steve Starks  
Scott Theurer  
Xitlalli Villanueva  
Rick Wheeler

**Board Members Absent**

Julie Beck  
Sanchaita Datta

**Office of the Commissioner**

Dave R. Woolstenhulme, Commissioner of Higher Education  
Geoffrey Landward, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel  
Taylor Adams, Associate Commissioner for Strategic Initiatives  
Alison Adams-Perlac, Associate General Counsel  
Trisha Dugovic, Director of Communication  
Malin Francis, Director of Facilities & Planning  
Brynn Fronk, Executive Assistant to the Utah Board of Higher Education  
Jared Haines, Senior Advisor for Technical Education  
Julie Hartley, Associate Commissioner of Academic Education  
Melanie Heath, Assistant Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives  
Vic Hockett, Talent Ready Utah Director  
Lais Martinez, Assistant Commissioner for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion  
Carrie Mayne, Chief Economist  
Jordan Passey, Budget and Planning Analyst  
Juliette Tennert, Chief Financial Officer  
Melissa Van Hien, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner  
Scott Wyatt, Senior Executive Director of Online Education  
Kim Ziebarth, Associate Commissioner of Technical Education

**Institutional Presidents Present**

Mindy Benson, Southern Utah University (interim)  
Darin Brush, Davis Technical College  
Clay Christensen, Mountainland Technical College  
Noelle Cockett, Utah State University

Stacey McIff, Snow College (interim)  
Brad Mortensen, Weber State University  
Jordan Rushton, Dixie Technical College (interim)  
Aaron Weight – Uintah Basin Technical College

Paul Hacking, Tooele Technical College  
Deneece Huftalin, Salt Lake Community College

Richard Williams, Utah Tech University  
Brennan Wood, Southwest Technical College

### **Boards of Trustees**

Kent Alder, Utah State University  
Gil Almquist, Dixie Technical College  
Karla Bergeson, Weber State University  
Danelle Brinkerhoff, Uintah Basin Technical College  
Lori Chillingworth, Salt Lake Community College  
Kearston Cutrbus, Weber State University  
Michael Evans, Southwest Technical College  
Christian Garner, University of Utah  
Darin Gifford, Southwest Technical College  
Jodi Hart Wilson, Southern Utah University  
Dave Haskell, Tooele Technical College  
Terri Hunter, Mountainland Technical College  
Leslie Keisel, Snow College  
Nancy Kennedy, Bridgerland Technical College  
Camille Knudson, Tooele Technical College  
Mari Krashowetz, Dixie Technical College  
Colleen Kvetko, Utah Tech University  
Rick Nielsen, Utah Valley University  
Vanessa Perez, Mountainland Technical College  
Rick Robinson, Snow College  
Eric Schmutz, Southern Utah University  
William Shafer, Ogden-Weber Technical College  
Brady Southwick, Salt Lake Community College  
James Taggart, Ogden-Weber Technical College  
Eric Wamsley, Bridgerland Technical College  
Tiffany Wilson, Utah Tech University  
Troy Wood, Davis Technical College

### **Other Guests**

Laura Snow, Chief of Staff, University of Utah  
Chris Nelson, Chief University Relations Officer & Secretary to the University, University of Utah  
Wayne Vaught, Provost / Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs, Utah Valley University  
Jacob Wright, Senior Budget & Policy Analyst, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget

Chair Church called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### ***General Session***

#### *Welcome & Introductions*

Chair Church welcomed the group and highlighted concerns and challenges the system is facing. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

#### *How do the Strategic Plan and Statute Work Together?*

Geoff Landward reviewed statute with the group and the difference in governance between the Utah Board of Higher Education and the institutional boards of trustees. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Update of Progress on Strategic Plan*

Commissioner Woolstenhulme emphasized how important it is that the institution's strategic plans fit into the Board's strategic plan. He reviewed the pillars of the plan. The Commissioner shared they are meeting with each institution to receive feedback on the Board's strategic plan. Changes to the plan will be proposed to the Board at the August committee meetings. Taylor Adams walked through the strategic plan in more detail and reviewed the plan on USHE's website. She provided a basis for what currently exists and noted that changes will be made in the August committee meetings. This was an information item only; no action was taken

### *Using Committees to Advance the Board's Work*

Chair Church reviewed the committee assignments and introduced the USHE staff members supporting each committee, Julie Hartley, Melanie Heath, Juliette Tennert, and Kim Ziebarth.

Julie Hartley provided an overview of the work of the Academic Education Committee. Melanie Heath gave a summary of the Student Affairs Committee's work. Juliette Tennert reviewed the Finance and Facilities Committee assignments. Kim summarized the work of the Technical Education Committee. This was an information item only, no action was taken.

### *Opportunity for All Utahns*

Lais Martinez discussed the attainment gaps that exist in higher education. She stated it is extremely critical that everything we do as a Board and system is centered around equity and closing the attainment gaps. She highlighted the work that is being done including the equity lens framework and equity-related resolutions. She explored the new Board to ask in every conversation they're a part of what is the equity imperative. She thanked the chief diversity officers for leading out on this work. This is an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Crisis Communications*

Kelsey Richardson and Matthew Driscoll from R&R Partners provided crisis communications training to attendees. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Breakout Sessions*

The Board of Higher Education, boards of trustees, and presidents broke out into three separate breakout sessions. The Board of Higher Education discussed how the Board governs and can foster a successful system of higher education. They also discussed their next steps for the coming year. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



Geoffrey Landward, Secretary

Date Approved: September 16, 2022