



**Utah Board of Higher Education  
Utah System of Higher Education  
Thursday, August 10, 2023**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES**

**Board Members Present**

Javier Chavez, Jr.  
Jon Cox  
Amanda Covington  
Sharon Eubank  
Danny Ipson  
Tina Marriott Larson  
Steve Neeleman  
Aaron Skonnard  
Holly Talbot  
Cydni Tetro

**Board Members Absent**

**Office of the Commissioner**

Dave Woolstenhulme, Commissioner  
Geoff Landward, Deputy Commissioner and Government Relations Director  
Nate Talley, Deputy Commissioner and CFO  
Taylor Adams, Associate Commissioner of Student Affairs  
Alison Adams-Perlac, General Counsel  
Trisha Dugovic, Director of Communication  
Malin Francis, Director of Facilities and Planning  
Brynn Fronk, Executive Assistant to the Utah Board of Higher Education  
Jared Haines, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner  
Julie Hartley, Associate Commissioner of Academic Education  
Vic Hockett, Associate Commissioner of Talent Ready Utah  
Carrie Mayne, Chief Economist  
Katie Mazzie, Director of Student-Centered Initiatives  
Jefferson Moss, Innovation District at The Point Project Director  
Natalie Reidhead, Administrative Assistant  
Hilary Renshaw, Associate General Council  
Melissa Van Hien, Office Manager / Executive Assistant to the Commissioner  
Joe Wheeler, IT Support  
Kim Ziebarth, Associate Commissioner of Technical Education

**Other Guests**

Cathy Anderson, Chief Financial Officer, University of Utah  
Janalyn Brown, Staff Assistant, Utah State University  
Ashley Marshall, Utah Foundation  
Mitzi Montoya, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Utah  
Lisa Moon, Executive Vice President, Bridgerland Technical College  
Kevin Olsen, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office  
Val Peterson, Vice President for Administration/Strategic Relations, Utah Valley University  
Jacob Wright, Senior Budget & Policy Analyst, Governor's Office of Planning & Budget

**Institutional Presidents Present**

Darin Brush, Davis Technical College  
Mindy Benson, Southern Utah University  
Clay Christensen, Mountainland Technical College  
Betsy Cantwell, Utah State University  
Paul Hacking, Tooele Technical College  
Deneece Huftalin, Salt Lake Community College  
Stacey McIff, Snow College

Brad Mortensen, Weber State University  
Jordan Rushton, Dixie Technical College  
Jim Taggart, Ogden-Weber Technical College  
Wayne Vaught, Utah Valley University (acting)  
Aaron Weight, Uintah Basin Technical College  
Richard Williams, Utah Tech University  
Brennan Wood, Southwest Technical College

Commissioner Woolstenhulme called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

**Committee of the Whole**

*Welcome*

Commissioner Woolstenhulme welcomed the attendees. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

*Oath of Office*

Brynn Fronk administered the Oath of Office to all the present Board members. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

*Board Leadership Appointment*

**Board member Larson moved to appoint the exceptional Amanda Covington to chair the Board of Higher Education. Board member Larson also moved the Board appoint Dr. Steve Neeleman to be the vice chair of the Board of Higher Education. The Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Recognition of Prior Board's Accomplishments*

Chair Covington recognized the accomplishments of the prior Board members. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

**Board member Skonnard called for the motion to go into closed session. Board member Eubank seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

**Closed Session**

**Board member Skonnard moved to end closed session. Board member Cox seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

**Committee of the Whole**

*Welcome*

Chair Covington welcomed the attendees. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Executive Staff & Presidents Introductions*

Commissioner Woolstenhulme introduced the presidents and Utah System of Higher Education executive staff. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Duties and Responsibilities*

Geoff Landward went over the duties and responsibilities of the Board, institutional boards of trustees, and institutional presidents. He informed the Board that they could review the responsibilities and duties and make changes. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Board Workflow*

Geoff Landward shared the Board workflow process with the Board members. Some of the Board members asked for changes to be made to the process to ensure adequate information flow and detail. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Institutional Constituent Groups*

Commissioner Woolstenhulme highlighted the institutional constituent groups within the system. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Institutional Roles and Mission*

Commissioner Woolstenhulme reviewed the institutional roles and mission with the Board members. He clarified the region of the state where Utah State provides technical education. At the Board's request, the Commissioner noted that the Office of the Commissioner can look at options to improve the Utah College Advising Corps (UCAC). It will be addressed at the November Board meeting. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Program Approval and Review Process*

Julie Hartley trained the Board on the academic degree program approval process. A few Board members requested more conversation on the program review process. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *System Priorities and Strategic Plan*

Commissioner Woolstenhulme introduced the system priorities and strategic plan. He emphasized that this is the new Board's strategic plan that drives the work of the Office of the Commissioner. Before the next Board meeting, the Board should dive into the plan and send any proposed changes.

Taylor Adams walked the Board through the basics of the strategic plan and how it was created and changed. Members of the USHE executive staff reviewed the strategic plan topics, including System Leadership, Affordability, Completion, and Access. There was a discussion amongst Board members and staff regarding completion rates and credit transfer. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Talent Ready Utah Training*

Vic Hockett provided Talent Ready Utah Training for the Board members. The Board members and Vic discussed jobs being filled by Utah graduates, the criteria for success within Talent Ready Utah, and the impacts of artificial intelligence on higher education. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Innovation and Commercialization*

Jefferson Moss provided the Board with an update on the innovation and commercialization work his team is doing. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Data Dashboard Training*

At Board member Tetro's request, the presidents shared insights from the training thus far. Carrie Mayne reviewed the Data Dashboards with the Board. Board member Tetro asked the presidents their leading and lagging indicators of success, to which various presidents answered. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Finance and Facilities Training*

In the interest of time, Nate Talley skipped training on the Budget Process, Financial Aid, Performance Funding, Capital, and Tuition. He trained the Board members on the Preliminary FY2025 Budget Proposals. There was a discussion amongst the group regarding the changes to performance funding. They also discussed shared services. Chair Covington requested that the Commissioner's office create a work plan around shared services that the new Board can digest and find ways to participate. The Commissioner noted they will work on this and take it to the Council of Presidents to see what can work for the institutions and the Board. Board member Chavez requested basic financial information, to which Nate Talley responded that it would be sent to the Board. Board member Tetro expressed feeling unprepared or unhelpful without the insights of the presidents and asked for a working session to engage in dialogue with them. **Board member Tetro moved that we have a meeting with the presidents with a pre-read before. Aaron Skonnard seconded the motion. The Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

### *Preliminary FY2025 Budget Proposals Approval*

**Board member Eubank moved to adopt the preliminary fiscal year 2025 budget guidelines and priorities as presented. Board member Ipson seconded the motion. The Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

### *University of Utah Baseball Facilities Design Phase Approval*

Cathy Anderson presented the University of Utah baseball facilities project. The University is seeking the Board to approve the project's design, and they'll return to the Board for approval in December. She noted that the construction will go out to bid once the design is done and approved. **Vice Chair Neeleman moved to approve the planning and design for the new baseball stadium capital development project at the University of Utah, with the accompanying requirement that the University of Utah return to the Board in December 2023 for full project approval. Board member Eubank seconded the motion. The Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

### *Utah Education Savings Board of Trustees Appointment*

Commissioner Woolstenhulme reviewed the Utah Education Savings Board of Trustees appointment item with the Board members. Chair Covington asked for an update on my529 at the next Board meeting.

**Board member Cox moved to appoint the following members to the Utah Education Savings Board of Trustees with terms expiring as follows:**

- **Dr. Stephen Nadauld, expiring August 31, 2024**
- **Lisa-Michele Church, expiring August 31, 2025**

- **Palmer DePaulis, expiring August 31, 2025**
- **Arthur Newell, expiring August 31, 2026**
- **Lori Chillingworth, expiring August 31, 2026**
- **John Lunt, expiring August 31, 2027**
- **Mark Cain, expiring August 31, 2027**

**Board member Tetro seconded the motion. Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Board Policy Amendments Based on Recent Legislation*

Alison Adams-Perlac reviewed the policy amendments with the Board members. **Chair Covington moved to approve the amended Board policies, repeal Board Policy R121, and direct institutions to implement the changes to Board Policy R472 in time for the 2023 fall semester. Board member Larson seconded the motion. The Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Consent Calendar*

**Board member Skonnard moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Board member Cox seconded the motion. The Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Legislative Affairs*

Due to time restraints, this agenda item was moved to the December 2023 Board meeting. Chair Covington asked for information on legislative items. Commissioner Woolstenhulme stated that calendar invites will be sent to the Board members for the Education Interim Committee meetings and Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee meetings so they know when they are happening and can attend if they choose.

*Open & Public Meetings Act Training*

Kevin Olsen, assistant attorney general, provided training for the Board on open and public meetings. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

*Board Administrative Items*

Brynn Fronk shared administrative items with the Board members. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

The group discussed coming together around a refreshed vision. Chair Covington asked the Board members to send her and Vice Chair Neeleman any thoughts. This was a discussion item only; no action was taken.

**Chair Covington moved to adjourn. Board member Larson seconded the motion. The Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

  
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Geoffrey Landward, Secretary

Date Approved: November 3, 2023