



**Utah Board of Higher Education
Virtual Conference via Zoom
Thursday, May 15, 2025**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES**

Board Members Present

Steve Neeleman, Vice Chair
Javier Chavez Jr.
Jon Cox
Danny Ipson
Tina Marriott
Aaron Skonnard
Cydni Tetro
Muskan Walia

Board Members Absent

Amanda Covington, Chair
Sharon Eubank

Office of the Commissioner

Geoffrey Landward, Commissioner
Alison Adams, General Counsel and Board Secretary
Taylor Adams, Associate Commissioner of Student Affairs
TJ Bliss, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs
Trevor Cross, IT Support
Brynn Fronk, Executive Assistant to the Utah Board of Higher Education
Cynthia Grua, Assistant Commissioner of Academic Affairs
Vic Hockett, Associate Commissioner of Talent Ready Utah
Carrie Mayne, Chief Economist
Katie Mazzie, Assistant Commissioner of Strategic and Government Affairs
Hilary Renshaw, Associate General Counsel
Angie Stallings, Deputy Commissioner and COO
Nate Talley, Deputy Commissioner and CFO
Kim Ziebarth, Associate Commissioner of Technical Education

Institutional Presidents Present

Mindy Benson, Southern Utah University
Darin Brush, Davis Technical College
Chad Campbell, Bridgerland Technical College
Clay Christensen, Mountainland Technical College
Paul Hacking, Tooele Technical College
Stacey McIlff, Snow College
Brad Mortensen, Weber State University
Taylor Randall, University of Utah

Jordan Rushton, Dixie Technical College
Shane Smeed, Utah Tech University
Al Smith, Utah State University (interim)
Jim Taggart, Ogden Weber Technical College
Astrid Tuminez, Utah Valley University
Aaron Weight, Uintah Basin Technical College
Brennan Wood, Southwest Technical College

Vice Chair Neeleman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Committee of the Whole

USHE Staff Update

Vice Chair Neeleman welcomed new Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs TJ Bliss. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

Utah Tech Leadership Change

Vice Chair Neeleman welcomed new Utah Tech President Shane Smeed. He also thanked Courtney White for his service as interim president for the past 17 months. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

Program Review 2025-2026

Commissioner Landward presented the agenda item to the Board and recommended the Board take action, recognizing that the cut in reallocation process meets the responsibility that the Board has for doing the program review process. **Board member Tetro moved to approve Board approved strategic reinvestment plans as meeting the program review requirements of Utah Code subsection 53B-16-102(7)(c) for degree-granting institutions for 2025-2026. Board member Cox seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

Consent Calendar

Board member Marriott moved to approve the consent calendar. Board member Skonnard seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

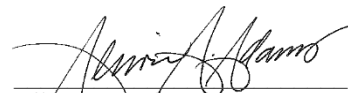
Board member Ipson moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; impending litigation; or the sale of real property. Board member Skonnard seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

Closed Session

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

Board member Skonnard moved to adjourn. Board member Tetro seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.


Alison A. Adams, Secretary

Date Approved: June 6, 2025