



**Utah Board of Higher Education  
Utah System of Higher Education  
Friday, March 27, 2026**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES**

**Board Members Present**

Amanda Covington, Chair  
Jon Cox, Vice Chair  
Javier Chavez Jr.  
Jeremy Hafen  
Jodi Hart  
Danny Ipson  
Garrett Largent  
Steve Neeleman  
Aaron Skonnard  
Cydni Tetro

**Board Members Absent**

**Office of the Commissioner**

Geoff Landward, Commissioner  
Alison Adams, General Counsel and Secretary to the Board  
Trisha Dugovic, Director of Communication  
Brynn Fronk, Executive Assistant to the Utah Board of Higher Education  
Carrie Mayne, Chief Economist  
Katie Mазzie, Associate Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives, Community and Government Relations  
Natalie Reidhead, Administrative Assistant  
Brian Shuppy, Senior Assistant Commissioner for Budget and Planning  
Angie Stallings, Deputy Commissioner and COO  
Nate Talley, Deputy Commissioner and CFO  
Melissa Van Hien, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner and Office Manager  
Trevor Cross, Systems Administrator

**Institutional Presidents Present**

Mindy Benson, Southern Utah University  
Darin Brush, Davis Technical College  
Clay Christensen, Mountainland Technical College  
Leslie Durham, Weber State University (Interim)  
Stacey McIff, Snow College  
Brad Mortensen, Utah State University

Taylor Randall, University of Utah  
Greg Peterson, Salt Lake Community College  
Shane Smeed, Utah Tech University  
Jim Taggart, Ogden Weber Technical College (interim)  
Aaron Weight, Uintah Basin Technical College

**Other Guests**

Kimberly Adamson, Associate Vice President for Finance for the Academic Enterprise, University of Utah  
Kedric Black, Associate Vice President for Finance/GRAMA, Utah Valley University  
Stephanie Carter, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, Uintah Basin Technical College  
Arnab Chakraborty, Dean of the College of Architecture + Planning, University of Utah

Maddie Clements, Community Outreach Representative, Congressman Owens' Office  
Dave Cowley, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, Utah State University  
Kyle Cullimore, Student Body President, Utah Valley University  
Roena Mae Delfin, Student Association President, Salt Lake Community College  
Chris Farr, Assistant Director for Internal Audit, Utah Valley University  
Mia Foster, Student Body President, Weber State University  
Carson Hadley, Student Body President, Snow College  
Mark Halverson, Vice President of Administrative Services, Weber State University  
Marissa King, Sr. Director of Student Leadership and Involvement, Utah Valley University  
Frankie Laanan, Dean of the College of Education, University of Utah  
Landon Lee, Student Body President, Southern Utah University  
Deven Macdonald, Board of Trustees Chair, Utah Tech University  
Brandi Mair, Chief of Staff and Chief Administrative Officer, Salt Lake Community College  
Darren Marshall, Associate Vice President of Budget Services and Financial Planning, Salt Lake  
Community College  
Kirk Michaelis, Vice President of Administrative Services, Mountainland Technical College  
Mitzi Montoya, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Utah  
Paul Morris, Vice President of Administrative Affairs, Utah Tech University  
Jim Mortensen, Vice President for Finance and Auxiliary Services, Utah Valley University  
Clinton Painter, Board of Trustees, Snow College  
Alexis Palmer, Associate Vice President for Student Life, Utah Valley University  
Val Peterson, Vice President of Administration and Strategic Relations, Utah Valley University  
Keith Radley, Professor, University of Utah  
Shellsea Ramirez, Student Body President, Utah Tech University  
Alex Rose, Student Body President, University of Utah  
Eric Schmutz, Board of Trustees Chair, Southern Utah University  
Randy Shumway, Board of Trustees, University of Utah  
Scott Smith, Board of Trustees Chair, Utah Valley University  
Brandon Sorensen, Student Body President, Utah State University  
Tim Tingey, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, Snow College  
Keith Titus, Board of Trustees Chair, Weber State University  
Peter VanderHeide, Senior Director for Internal Audit, Utah Valley University  
Wayne Vaught, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Utah Valley University  
Tessa White, Board of Trustees Chair, Utah State University  
Scott Wood, Senior Director for Budgets, Utah Valley University

Chair Amanda Covington called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

### **Committee of the Whole**

#### *Student Body Presidents*

Board member Largent shared that the institutional student body presidents met at the Capitol during the legislative session. They toured the building, met with legislators, and attended a Higher Education Appropriations Committee meeting. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

#### *Commissioner's Office Introduction*

Nate Talley introduced the tuition and fees proposals to the Board members. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

#### *Board Policy Updates*

Nate Talley presented the proposed changes to policies R510 and R516.

**Board member Ipson moved to approve the amendments to Board Policy R510 as proposed. Board member Hart seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

**Board member Neeleman moved to approve the amendments to Board Policy R516. He further moved that subsequent Board action taken on AY 2026-27 general fee schedules require institutional reporting and Commissioner's office verification of compliance with R516 food pantry provisions by July 1, 2026. Board member Tetro seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*USHE Technical College Tuition and Fee Requests, Public Comment, and Board Action*

*Commissioner's Office Technical College Tuition and Fees Recommendations*

Nate Talley reviewed the Technical College tuition and general fees request and the Commissioner's Recommendations with the Board members.

Chair Covington called for public comment, but none were made.

**Chair Covington moved to approve:**

- 1. The Ogden-Weber Technical College and, subject to future Board action, the Mountainland Technical College net-neutral, fee-to-tuition conversions;**
- 2. The proposed adjustments to technical college differential tuition schedules;**
- 3. The Utah State University and, subject to future Board action, the technical education tuition and fee adjustments for Snow College; and**
- 4. Remaining technical college tuition and fee schedules at current rates for AY 2026-27, subject to future Board action.**

**Board member Skonnard seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

**Board member Skonnard moved to direct the Commissioner's Office, in collaboration with technical college presidents, to conduct an interim study on technical college student-paid revenue sources, including base tuition, differential tuition, course and program fees, materials fees, and other miscellaneous student fees. He further moved to direct the Commissioner's office to report the study results and corresponding recommendations for AY 2027-2028 tuition and fee schedules to the Board no later than October 2026. Board member Chavez Jr. seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Mountainland Technical College*

President Christensen and Kirk Michaelis presented Mountainland Technical College's tuition and fee increase proposal. Board member Ipson requested more information regarding the waitlist, which President Christensen said he could share with Board members by email. The Board members debated whether or not to grant the institution's request.

Chair Covington called for public comment, but none were made.

**Board member Hafen moved to approve the proposed tuition and general fee adjustments as requested by Mountainland Technical College. Vice Chair Cox seconded the motion, and Board members Neeleman and Chavez Jr. voted in favor. All other Board members in attendance voted to oppose the motion. The motion did not pass.**

*Uintah Basin Technical College*

President Weight and Stephanie Carter presented Uintah Basin Technical College's tuition and fees increase proposal and answered questions from Board members.

Chair Covington called for public comment, but none were made.

**Vice Chair Cox moved to proceed to the next item on the agenda. Board member Skonnard seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*USHE Degree-Granting Tuition and Fee Requests, Public Comment, and Board Action*

*Southern Utah University*

Nate Talley introduced Southern Utah University's tuition and fees increase proposal and reviewed the Commissioner's recommendation. President Mindy Benson, Trustee Chair Eric Schmutz, and Student Body President Landon Lee presented the proposal and then addressed questions from Board members.

Chair Covington called for public comment, but none were made.

**Board member Tetro moved to approve the proposed tuition and general fee adjustments, including adjustments to differential schedules, as requested by Southern Utah University. Board member Hart seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Utah Tech University*

Nate Talley introduced Utah Tech University's tuition and fees increase proposal and reviewed the Commissioner's recommendation. President Smeed, Trustee Chair Deven Macdonald, Paul Morris, and Student Body President Shellsea Ramirez presented the proposal and answered questions from the Board. The Board members requested a timeline and metrics for the Union Building, which President Smeed noted he will present to the Board in the future.

Chair Covington called for public comment, but none were made.

**Chair Covington moved to approve a 4.36% increase in tuition, including any related general fee-to-tuition conversions, and a 6.73% decrease in general fees for Utah Tech University, resulting in a combined tuition and fee increase of 2.80%. She further moved to require Utah Tech to report annually on its progress toward the student union road map and deliverables. She also moved to authorize Utah Tech University to work with the Commissioner to make any subsequent technical adjustments, including rounding and tuition schedule exclusions, necessary to finalize the increase prior to implementation by the institution. Board member Neeleman seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Snow College*

Nate Talley introduced Snow College's tuition and fees increase proposal and reviewed the Commissioner's recommendation. President McIff, Trustee Chair Clinton Painter, Tim Tingey, and Student Body President Carson Hadley presented Snow College's tuition and fees increase proposal.

Chair Covington called for public comment, but none were made.

**Board member Skonnard moved to approve the proposed tuition and general fee adjustments as requested by Snow College. Board member Chavez Jr. seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Utah Valley University*

Nate Talley introduced Utah Valley University's tuition and fees increase proposal and reviewed the Commissioner's recommendation. Wayne Vaught, Scott Wood, Jim Mortensen, and Student Body President Kyle Cullimore presented UVU's tuition and fees increase proposal.

Chair Covington called for public comment, but none were made.

**Vice Chair Cox moved to approve the proposed tuition and general fee adjustments as requested by Utah Valley University. Board member Hafen seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Salt Lake Community College*

Nate Talley introduced Salt Lake Community College's tuition and fees increase proposal and reviewed the Commissioner's recommendation. President Peterson and Student Body President Roena Mae Delfin presented Salt Lake Community College's tuition and fees increase proposal.

Chair Covington called for public comment, but none were made.

**Board member Hart moved to approve the proposed tuition and general fee adjustments as requested by Salt Lake Community College. Board member Skonnard seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Weber State University*

Nate Talley introduced the Weber State University's tuition and fees increase proposal and reviewed the Commissioner's recommendation. Interim President Leslie Durham and Mark Halverson then presented the proposal. The Board discussed the differences between the Commissioner's recommendation and Weber State's proposal.

Chair Covington called for public comment, but none were made.

Student Body President Mia Foster presented the student fees and took questions from the Board.

**Board member Tetro moved to approve the proposed tuition and general fee adjustments as requested by Weber State University. Board member Skonnard seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Utah State University*

Nate Talley introduced the Utah State University's tuition and fees increase proposal and reviewed the Commissioner's recommendation. President Brad Mortensen, Student Body President Brandon Sorensen, and Trustee Chair Tessa White presented the proposal and addressed questions from Board members.

Chair Covington called for public comment, but none were made.

**Vice Chair Cox moved to approve the proposed tuition and general fee adjustments as requested by Utah State University, with the following general fee revisions where applicable:**

- **An Athletic Fees increase by 4.3% to \$240.47**
- **A Campus Recreation Fees increase by 7.67% to \$112.32**

**Chair Covington seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*University of Utah*

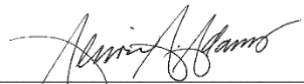
Nate Talley introduced the University of Utah's tuition and fees increase proposal and reviewed the Commissioner's recommendation. President Randall, Trustee Vice Chair Randy Shumway, Student Body President Alex Rose, and Kimberly Adamson presented the proposal.

Chair Covington called for public comment, but none were made.

**Board member Skonnard moved to approve the proposed tuition and general fee adjustments, including adjustments to differential schedules, as requested by the University of Utah. Board member Tetro seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

  
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Alison A. Adams, Secretary

Date Approved: May 14, 2026