

## **UVU BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

March 20, 2024

4:00pm Gateway Building

### **Board of Trustee Members Present**

Rick Nielsen, Chair  
Scott Smith, First Vice Chair  
Jeanette Bennett, Second Vice Chair  
Jeremy Hafen  
Andrea Clarke  
Noel Vallejo  
Kara North  
Mimi Barney

### **Others Present**

Geoff Landward, USHE Commissioner  
Nathan Savage, UVU Foundation Chair

### **UVU Attendees**

Wayne Vaught, Provost & Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Kat Brown, Deputy Provost  
Kyle Reyes, Vice President, Institutional Advancement  
Christina Baum, Vice President, Digital Transformation  
Jim Mortensen, Vice President, Finance  
Marilyn Meyer, Vice President, People & Culture  
Val Peterson, Vice President, Administration & Strategic Relations  
Michelle Kearns Vice President, Student Affairs  
Kara Schneck, Vice President of Marketing and Communications  
and Chief of Staff  
Clark Collings, General Counsel  
Rasha Qudisat, Chief Engagement & Effectiveness Officer  
Nikki Scott, PACE President  
Wioleta Fedeczko, Faculty Senate President  
Derek Kent, Student Data Analyst, Student Affairs  
Allison Ensign, Assistant Professor, Nursing  
Jenny Christensen, Legal Secretary  
Jake Allen, Presidential Intern

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Rick Nielsen welcomed those in attendance at the March 20, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting. He recognized Geoff Landward, Commissioner of the Utah System of Higher Education, and welcomed those in attendance.

## **II. INFORMATION**

### **1. President's Report**

Vice President Jim Mortensen provided the President's report by highlighting the legislative budget priorities, including compensation and mandatory increases, as well as performance funding, and appropriations. Budgets for capital facilities, the Student Athlete Success Center, and the Health Professionals and Mental Health Building were granted by the legislature. This was followed by brief notes on tech and student fees and the multi-year approach for ongoing funding that Utah Valley University is seeking for tech needs.

Vice President Mortensen then addressed the Board on the reallocation and reinvestment efforts of the University. He expressed the University's position is strong as we move into reallocation efforts.

After these remarks, Vice President Mortensen shared updates on various University events and achievements, including the performance of the University Basketball teams, the Presidential Lecture series with Apl.de.Ap, the AI Institute, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual UVU Data Summit, the UNESCO Chair Designation, the Chelase and Casey Baugh Entrepreneurship Institute, a visit from Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee, and the upcoming University Awards of Excellence.

### **2. EverGREEN Update**

Vice President Kyle highlighted the University Alumni Awards, the announcement of this year's President's Scholarship Ball, and its theme EVERGiving.

### **3. People & Culture Annual Report**

Vice President Marilyn Meyer began by acknowledging the people behind the numbers of the People and Culture Annual Report. From the report, she highlighted workforce data, employee demographics, awards such as the Healthy Worksite Award, compensation and benefit updates, professional development opportunities, and hiring and retention.

### **4. Student Fee Recommendation**

Student Body President Mimi Barney discussed the student fee recommendation by reviewing designated student fees, including the student art fee, student programming fees, health services, and campus recreation. This included highlighting student fee increases and decreases, and the reasoning behind the student fee committee's decision making.

### **5. 2025 Commencement**

Associate Vice President Steve Anderson provided a report on the University's upcoming commencement events, including schedules for convocations and commencement. He also highlighted this year's honorary degree recipients and this year's commencement speaker.

### **6. Legislative Report**

Vice President Val Peterson provided a report on the recent legislative session highlighting UVU's Day on the Hill, the reallocation bill HB265, appropriations, and other key bills that were passed in the legislative session. USHE Commissioner Geoff Landward also chimed in to provide additional updates on key bills.

## **III. ACTION AGENDA**

### **1. Policy Approvals**

Student Data Analyst Derek Kent discussed Policy 116 Student Communications.

Deputy Provost Kat Brown discussed Policy 522 Undergraduate Credit and Transcripts, Policy 606 Adoption of Course Materials and Textbooks, Policy 610 Credit Hour, and Policy 640 Sabbatical Leave.

Associate Professor Allison Ensign talked about Policy 548 Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Healthcare and Counseling Clinical Programs Students.

Deputy Provost Kat Brown briefly addressed the policies needing extensions, which included Policy 306 Faculty Positions, Policy 361 Employee Leave, Policy 601 Classroom Instruction and Management, Policy 616 Regular and Substantive Interaction, Policy 648 Faculty Personnel Reduction, and Policy 649 Faculty Sanction and Dismissal for Cause. Trustee Jeremy Hafen motioned to approve the policies as presented. Trustee North seconded. The motion was carried out without opposition.

### **2. Program Approvals**

Provost Wayne Vaught addressed a new proposed unit, Innovation Academy. He addressed the discontinuance of Administrative Support, Certificate of Completion; Administrative Support, Certificate of Proficiency; and Marketing, Bachelor of Arts. Trustee Mimi Barney motioned to approve the programs as presented. Trustee Bennett seconded. The motion was carried out without opposition.

## **IV. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Trustee Andrea Clarke motioned to approve the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the January 30, 2025, Board Meeting, the November and December 2024 Investment Reports, the Academic Calendar Recommendation Process Summary; and the ratified the Board of Trustees Executive Committee Action on 2025-26 Tuition and Fees. Trustee Vallejo seconded. The motion was carried out without opposition.

Following the consent agenda, Trustee Bennett read aloud a Resolution honoring Trustee Mimi Barney for her service as a board member and as Student Body President. Her resolution was met with great gratitude, and she was presented with a token of appreciation from the Board.

Chair Rick Nielsen then welcomed Kyle Cullimore, the incoming Student Body President, and the newest Trustee. With great excitement, Chair Nielsen led Kyle Cullimore in the Trustee Oath of Office, which was followed by brief remarks of anticipation from Trustee Cullimore.

Chair Rick Nielsen, before adjourning the meeting, invited Commissioner Geoff Landward to share any thoughts on higher education and the reallocation process. Commissioner Geoff expressed his appreciation for the legislature and their dedication to supporting higher education.

Chair Rick Nielsen then addressed a matter of periphery noting the June meeting would take place at a different time than usual. He then closed by addressing his gratitude for President Tuminez, Jeffery Tolk, and their profound dedication to students at Utah Valley University.