

UVU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 18, 2025

4:00pm Gateway Building

Board of Trustee Members Present

Rick Nielsen, Chair
Scott Smith, First Vice Chair
Jeanette Bennett, Second Vice Chair
Paul Thompson
Blake Modersitzki
Jeremy Hafen
Andrea Clarke
Noel Vallejo
Kara North
Kyle Cullimore

Others Present

Geoff Landward, USHE Commissioner
Nathan Savage, UVU Foundation Chair

UVU Attendees

Astrid S. Tuminez, President
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
Scott Wood, Budget Director
Jenny Christensen, Legal Secretary
Jake Allen, Presidential Intern

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rick Nielsen welcomed those in attendance at the June 18, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting. He recognized Geoff Landward, Commissioner of the Utah System of Higher Education and welcomed President Tuminez.

II. INFORMATION

1. President's Report

President Tuminez began her welcome by highlighting the recent 2025 graduating class and other excelling students, including students featured on Jimmy Kimmel, attending Yale, and winning Miss Utah. She also highlighted the change from the WAC to the Big West Conference, recognition from Orem City for UVU's leadership in using Natural Resources, and the appointment of Laurie Sharp to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). She then addressed the Cabinet directly and thanked them for their strength and coordination during her absence.

2. EverGREEN Update

Kyle Reyes began his EverGREEN Update by thanking the Cabinet and the Board of Trustees, acknowledging their ability to catalyze the fundraising process, including those who have joined the EverGREEN Ambassador program. Employee giving and first-time donors are up. He highlighted recent commitments/donations, including the naming of the Applied AI Institute and the naming of the financial planning & wealth management program, a UVU program that currently outperforms graduate programs across the country. Kyle followed by updating the Board on the new Jeffery S. Tolk Hope Scholars Endowed Program & Scholarship, which has received over \$250,000.

Kyle then pivoted to announce the grand opening ceremonies of the new UCCU Soccer Stadium, this year's scholarship ball on October 11th, and the grand opening of the Scott M. Smith Engineering and Technology Building in December.

He closed with three simple requests for the Board, which included inviting someone to a UVU event, connecting to someone who can contribute a planned gift, and helping us achieve 100% giving of our advancement boards. Kyle finished by sharing a heartfelt story about the effect of sponsorship and charitable giving in his own life.

3. Audit Committee Report

Trustee Smith started the Audit Committee Report by addressing the in-depth nature of UVU's audit process, emphasizing that everything is audited, including digital transformation systems and cybersecurity. He highlighted a 36% decrease in critical system vulnerabilities. He also broke down the majority of calls received from the University reporting hotline, noting that many of the calls fall under academic affairs or are employment related. He highlighted the conservative efforts of the Board and of the President to manage funds.

4. Finance & Facilities Committee Report

Vice-chair Bennett shared a quick report on Finance & Facilities, including various efforts underway for increasing university revenue as well as reallocation. Trustee Bennett also addressed employee compensation and other facilities projects taking place.

5. Strategic Reinvestment Update

Jim Mortensen started his update by highlighting the efficiency-focused approach of the reinvestment process, including a preemptive strategy for reallocation efforts. He highlighted a hiring freeze, allocating budgets for anticipated cuts, and reducing the number of academic schools/departments. He also highlighted that the University wanted to take a shared governance approach to the reallocation process, emphasizing that the University doesn't want to micromanage budget cuts. This included several town halls, emails, and an anonymous data collection site for faculty input.

Jim Mortensen followed by explaining the success metrics and the logic model issued by the legislature and utilized by the University, as well as how areas of disinvestment are evaluated. He acknowledged the difficulty of closing particular programs, student centers, and letting go of a handful of faculty and staff. He acknowledged that the process is never easy, but that the University has come together to make these changes easier.

He followed this by focusing on the various areas of reinvestment, including engineering initiatives, health and wellness expansion, general education, online expansion, and student success coaches.

III. ACTION AGENDA

1. FY 2026 Annual Budget Approval

Budget Director Scott Wood addressed the FY26 budget. Trustee Jeanette Bennett motioned to approve the FY26 budget as presented. Trustee Thompson seconded. The motion was carried out without opposition.

2. Policy Approvals

Trustee Kara North motioned to approve the following policies, Policy 104 Advancement Boards and Program Advisory Boards; Policy 172 Advertising; Policy 161 Freedom of Speech (Compliance Change

Ratification); Policy 234 Qualified Sponsorships; Policy 447 Information Security; Policy 449 Private Sensitive Information (Deletion); Policy 452 Electronic Information Technology; Policy 306 Recruitment, Selection, and Hiring of Faculty Positions; Policy 616 Regular and Substantive Interaction; Policy 633 Faculty Performance Evaluation and Feedback; Policy 638 Post-Tenure Review; Policy 649 Faculty Sanction and Dismissal for Cause; Policy 654 Faculty Merit Pay; and Policy 655 Graduate Faculty of Graduate Programs. Trustee Smith seconded. The motion was carried out without opposition.

3. Program Approvals

Provost Wayne Vaught addressed new proposed programs, which included Emergency Medical Services, Undergraduate Certificate, Emergency Services Supervision, Bachelor of Applied Studies; Nutrition, Undergraduate Certificate; Outdoor Recreation Management, Associate of Science; Outdoor Recreation, Bachelor of Science, Professional Advancement, Bachelor of Applied Science; Cybersecurity, Associate of Applied Science; and Applied AI in Organizations, Undergraduate Certificate. He addressed proposed modifications to Exercise Science, Associate of Science; Exercise Science, Bachelor of Science; Professional Advancement, Associate of Science; Professional Advancement, Bachelor of Science; Business Technologies and Education, Bachelor of Science; and Financial Planning and Wealth Management, Bachelor of Science. Lastly, he addressed the programs to be discontinued which included, Ethnic Studies, Minor; Exercise Science and Outdoor Recreation, Associate of Arts; Exercise Science and Outdoor Recreation, Bachelor of Arts (1) Exercise Science Emphasis (2) Outdoor Recreation Emphasis; Exercise Science and Outdoor Recreation, Bachelor of Science – Outdoor Recreation Management Emphasis; Theatre Technology, Undergraduate Certificate; University Studies, Associate of Arts; University Studies, Bachelor of Arts; Baking and Pastry, Undergraduate Certificate; Diesel Mechanics Technology, Diploma; Entry Kitchen, Undergraduate Certificate; and Information Management, Bachelor of Science. Trustee Blake Modersitzki motioned to approve the programs as presented. Trustee Bennett seconded. The motion was carried out without opposition.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

Trustee Paul Thompson motioned to approve the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the March 27, 2025, Board Meeting; and the January, February and March 2025 Investment Reports. Trustee Vallejo seconded. The motion was carried out without opposition.

V. BOARD OFFICER ELECTION

Chair Rick Nielsen addressed further action items. At the recommendation of President Tuminez, it was proposed that Clark Collings be retained as the Secretary to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Scott Smith made the motion. Trustee Paul Thompson seconded. The motion was carried out without opposition. Secretary Clark Collings reviewed the Bylaws regarding the Election of Board Officers, addressed the nominations, and gave instructions to the Board members on the election process. The voting process took place. Scott Smith was elected as Chair, Jeanette Bennett as First Vice Chair, and Jeremy Hafen as Second Vice Chair.

VI. RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION

Chair Scott Smith read the resolution of appreciation and presented a gift for outgoing Board member Rick Nielsen. First Vice Chair Jeanette Bennett read the resolutions of appreciation and presented gifts for outgoing Board members Kara North and Paul Thompson. Second Vice Chair Jeremy Hafen read the resolution of appreciation and presented a gift for outgoing Board member Noel Vallejo.

Chair Scott Smith adjourned the meeting.