

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
APRIL 14, 2026

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Curt Doman	Alex Rose
Katie Eccles (Chair)	Randy Shumway (Vice-chair) (via Zoom)
Christena Huntsman (via Zoom)	Jamie Sorenson
Karen Marriott	

EXCUSE

Kathi Garff
Steve Miller
Bassam Salem

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Kris Bosman	Chief Alumni Relations Officer
Cindy Braegger	Director, Administration, Academic Affairs
Sierra Canela	Director for Student Governance and Leadership
Bob Carter	Executive Vice President, Health Sciences, and CEO, University of Utah Health
Troy D'Ambrosio	Chief of Staff, President's Office, and Vice President, Innovation
Michael Free	Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, John and Marcia Price College of Engineering and College of Mines and Earth Sciences
Natalie Gochnour	Special Advisor to the President and Director of the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute and Associate Dean of the David Eccles School of Business
Sean Grube	Associate Vice President, Housing and Dining Programs
Mark Harlan	Athletic Director
Jeff Herring	Chief Human Resources Officer
Steve Hess	Chief Information Officer
Lori Kaczka	Executive Director, Facilities and Capital Projects
Teresa Kehl	Deputy Chief of Staff and Special Assistant to the First Lady, President's Office
Andrew King	Director, Construction Project Management
Heather King	Associate Director, PR/Communications
Paul Kohn	Sr. Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment and Student Success
Jeff Labrum	Chief Operating Officer
Jasen Lee	Manager Public Relations and Marketing, Marketing and Communications
John Lin	Chief Research Officer, Planning & Partnerships
Dan Lundergan	CEO, University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics
Laura Marks	Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Alexis Matthews	Community Engagement Specialist, Marketing and Communications
Lori McDonald	Vice President, Student Affairs
Allie Menzendorf	President, Staff Council
Michael Middleton	Senior Associate Dean for the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Brent Milne	President-elect, Academic Senate
Mitzi Montoya	Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs
Robert C. Muir	Associate Vice President, Debt and Asset Management

Melody Murdock	Director, Strategic Communications
Chris Nelson	Chief University Relations Officer & Secretary to the University
Dave Patel	Managing Director, Strategic Economic Partnerships
Rob Patton	Executive Communications Manager
Jason Perry	Vice President, Government Relations
Richard Preiss	President, Academic Senate
Annalisa Purser	Director of Board Governance, Policy and Operations
Natalie Pyne	Director, Marketing and Communication, Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Jason Ramirez	Associate Vice President, Student Affairs; and Dean of Students
Taylor Randall	President
Anshuman Razdan	Chief Research Officer, Planning & Partnerships
Jenn Reed	Sr. Associate Vice President, Auxiliary Services
Collin Simmons	Executive Director, Auxiliary Services
Cassie Slattery	Director of Strategic Initiatives, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Laura Snow	Interim Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice President for Health Sciences
Erica Stringham	ASUU President, incoming (2026-2027)
Andrea Thomas	Chief Experience Officer
Michelle Thompson	Manager, Office of Student Experience
Phyllis Vetter	General Counsel and Vice President
Tony Wagner	Chief Financial Officer
Rebecca Walsh	Director, Public Relations & Communications
Marie Wintriss	Past President, University of Utah Staff Council

OTHERS

TJ Bliss	CFO, Utah System of Higher Education
Students	

CALL TO ORDER

Information: 1.01 – Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:02 a.m. in the Cleone Peterson Eccles Alumni House, Sorenson Legacy Foundation Boardroom. Chair Eccles welcomed Trustees and others in attendance. She stated that the meeting is conducted transparently pursuant to the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act. She also acknowledged receiving a letter from a group of students concerning phasing out non-functional turf and indicated the Board would ask University administration to work with the students to address their concerns.

Chair Eccles excused Trustee Kathi Garff, Steve Miller and Bassam Salem who were unable to attend.

GENERAL CONSENT

Action (Consent): 2.01 – Minutes of the March 10 and March 18 Meetings of the Board of Trustees

Action (Consent): 2.02 – Faculty and Staff Matters (Appendix I)

Action (Consent): 2.03 – Report of Investments Portfolio – for the Month of January (Appendix II)

Action (Consent): 2.04 – University Leases (Appendix III)

Action (Consent): 2.05 – Name Change – Bachelor of University Studies to Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (Appendix IV)

Action (Consent): 2.06 – Naming – Kenneth P. & Sally Rich Burbidge Foundation and Todd & Karin Cook Family Players' Lounge, "The Burb," in the Baseball Stadium (Appendix V)

Action (Consent): 2.07 – Discretionary Funds (Appendix VI)

Action (Consent): 2.08 – General Revenue and Refunding Series 2026A Bonds – Approval to Issue General Revenue and Refunding Bonds for a New Money Project and Potential Refunding of Existing University Outstanding Bonds (Appendix VII)

Action (Consent): 2.09 – Retire Policy – Policy 5-118 Procedure for Recoding Affiliation of Personnel Not Paid by U (Appendix VIII)

Action (Consent): 2.10 – Revise Policy – Policy 6-100 Instruction and Evaluation and Corresponding Changes to Policy 6-002 The Academic Senate and Senate Committees and Policy 6-404 – Undergraduate Admission (Appendix IX)

Action (Consent): 2.11 – Revise Policy – Policy 5-211 University Independent Personnel Boards & Procedures for Complaints Under the Utah Protection of Public Employees Act (Appendix X)

Action (Consent): 2.12 – Course and Program Fees (Appendix XI)

Action (Consent): 2.13 – New Degree – BA/BS Theatre (Appendix XII)

Action (Consent): 2.14 – New Degree – Criminology MS (Appendix XIII)

Action (Consent): 2.15 – New Degree – Financial Technology MS (Appendix XIV)

Action (Consent): 2.16 – New Certificate – STEM Leadership and Management (Appendix XV)

Action (Consent): 2.17 – New Certificate – Student Financial Aid Administration (Appendix XVI)

Prior to the motion to approve the consent calendar, Chair Eccles highlighted:

1. **Item 2.08 – General Revenue and Refunding Series 2026A Bond** – Chair Eccles provided background about the item:

In October 2022, this Board authorized the University to move forward with a South Campus Parking garage and to obtain the associated bonds for the project. A bond for up to \$116.3 million received legislative authorization during the following 2023 session. Last year, the Board approved the location of that parking facility – just west of the Huntsman Arena – the current lot 12 site.

U staff did significant work to ensure the University was building the right kind of structure in the right place. This included several transportation and parking studies, which unsurprisingly, indicated the need for more parking.

Upon Board approval of the issuance of this bond, it will go before the Utah Board of Higher Education for final approval. Then the University will move forward with construction, and the Board's Campus Master Plan Committee will stay engaged as the University proceeds with design and construction.

2. **Item 2.10 – Revise Policy 6-100 – Instruction and Evaluation** – Chair Eccles noted this is one of the most fundamental university regulations because it establishes requirements for instruction such as grading, course numbers, adding and dropping courses, and academic standards.

The policy update clarifies expectations around grading and instruction, brings greater transparency to registration and withdrawal rules, and better aligns policies with current academic practices.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar by Jamie Sorenson, second by Randy Shumway. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Curt Doman, Katie Eccles, Christena Huntsman, Karen Marriott, Alex Rose, Randy Shumway, Jamie Sorenson

Background materials are included in the Appendices (as noted above) and can be found online (in BoardDocs) with each agenda item or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

ACTION AGENDA

Action: 3.01 – Naming – Kent and Martha DiFiore Cinema in the Film and Media Arts Building

Kris Bosman, Chief Alumni Relations Officer, presented item 3.01.

Kent and Martha DiFiore Cinema: In recognition of a \$650,000 gift from Martha H. DiFiore, M.D., and Kent C. DiFiore, M.D., the University of Utah would like to name the cinema in the Film and Media Arts Building in their honor. A fully executed gift agreement is in place, and the gift will be paid in full on or before March 31, 2031.

Motion to approve naming of the cinema in the Film and Media Arts Building in honor of Ken and Martha DiFiore by Karen Marriott, second by Alex Rose. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Curt Doman, Katie Eccles, Christena Huntsman, Karen Marriott, Alex Rose, Randy Shumway, Jamie Sorenson

Action: 3.02 – New Institute – Critical and Strategic Minerals

Anshuman Razdan, Chief Research Officer, Planning & Partnerships, and Michael Free, Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, John and Marcia Price College of Engineering and College of Mines and Earth Sciences, presented item 3.02.

The Colleges of Business, Engineering, Law, Mines and Earth Science, and Social and Behavioral Science are proposing to create the Institute for Critical and Strategic Minerals (ICSM) to enable an expanded,

sustainable domestic critical minerals supply by leading cutting-edge research, education and innovation across the entire value chain and interrelated economic, social, political and legal/policy support. Critical minerals are vital to many technologically important items. With recent disruptions in supply chains and foreign control of key element markets, there is increasing national interest in reducing reliance on foreign-sourced critical and rare earth elements. The University of Utah has internationally recognized programs in geology, mining engineering and metallurgical engineering that are key programs needed to support these critical minerals endeavors, and the U is the only institution in the state that offers the combination of these three disciplines. ICSM will work with these and other programs to enhance education and research that is vital to these areas. ICSM would enable the university to work more closely together on large-scale and small-scale research projects, meeting the national security and state of Utah's needs in critical minerals. The ICSM would also create a research, training, mentoring and service ecosystem that would be synergistic. ICSM would facilitate connections and collaborations with industry and government in addition to larger team interactions with funding agencies, communities and other institutions to have a broad range of societal impacts in this area. The center would also provide presentations and forums to engage researchers, students, industry practitioners, government personnel and the public. It would enable the university to leverage vast intellectual resources across many disciplines such as science and engineering, social science, business and law to support and expand funding for a broad range of related research and education to improve the domestic supply of critical minerals. The institute requests \$1.5M over 3 years to establish itself and become self-sustaining through other sources that are being investigated. Currently, there are multiple active critical minerals-related research grants that can be leveraged to expand the impact of these funds.

President Randall offered additional comments, and members of the Board of Trustees asked questions prior to the motion to approve.

A copy of the supporting materials are included as Appendix XVII with the official minutes of this meeting and can be found online (in BoardDocs) or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

Motion to approve of the creation of the Institute for Critical and Strategic Minerals by Curt Doman, second by Jamie Sorenson. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Curt Doman, Katie Eccles, Christena Huntsman, Karen Marriott, Alex Rose, Randy Shumway, Jamie Sorenson

Action: 3.03 – New Center – Civic Discourse and Debate

Michael Middleton, Senior Associate Dean for the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, presented item 3.03.

The Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences are proposing to create a Center for Civic Discourse & Debate that will advance research, teaching, training and community engagement in constructive civic discourse. Through research initiatives, it will produce scholarship on argumentation, dialogue facilitation and conflict resolution while hosting visiting scholars and supporting student research opportunities. Its teaching programs, including Debate Across the Curriculum, will integrate evidence-based frameworks for civil disagreement across disciplines, equipping students with durable skills in argument construction, evidence evaluation and respectful refutation in addition to emphasizing listening skills and constructive engagement of other viewpoints. Grounded in process expertise rather than ideological advocacy, the center practices strict political neutrality while creating a hub where academic rigor meets practical community impact. The center will teach how to engage constructively across differences—durable skills applicable whether in classrooms, workplaces or community settings—rather than advocating particular viewpoints, enabling the University to address civic polarization while maintaining institutional neutrality essential for a public research university. This approach will respond to urgent societal need: one in five Americans report that political divisions have damaged their personal relationships, and the center will apply academic expertise to this challenge by teaching evidence-based frameworks for constructive disagreement. As a result, it will enable the university to position itself as a national model for how research institutions can strengthen civic culture while serving their states' populations. Preliminary activities are funded from multiple sources, including a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations for a flagship project (Debate Across the Curriculum). Additional start-up funds will be pursued through standard AEP processes within the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Center for Civic Discourse & Debate will equip students with communication and critical thinking competencies consistently identified by employers as essential across all sectors through efforts like the Conflict Resolution Certificate Program, establishing a hub for scholarship on argumentation and conflict resolution that will position Utah as a national research leader through a campus fellows and visiting scholars program, and demonstrating how academic expertise can address real-world challenges through public programming like the John R. Park Public Debates. The Center for Civic Discourse & Debate will transcend traditional departmental boundaries by creating a dynamic convening space where faculty from Communication, Political Science, Philosophy, Social Work, Education, Law and more will collaborate on shared intellectual goals and methodological approaches rather than disciplinary content.

President Randall offered additional comments, and members of the Board of Trustees made comments and asked questions prior to the motion to approve.

A copy of the supporting materials are included as Appendix XVIII with the official minutes of this meeting and can be found online (in BoardDocs) or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

Motion to approve the creation of the Civic Discourse and Debate Center by Alex Rose, second by Randy Shumway. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Curt Doman, Katie Eccles, Christena Huntsman, Karen Marriott, Alex Rose, Randy Shumway, Jamie Sorenson

Action: 3.04 – New Center – Olympics Center for Societal Impact

John Lin, Chief Research Officer, Planning & Partnerships presented item 3.04.

The Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences are proposing to create the Olympic Center for Societal Impact at the University of Utah to advance knowledge, innovation and practical solutions that ensure the Olympic Games and other large-scale sporting events deliver sustainable economic benefits, study environmental impacts and foster measurable societal impact. Drawing on Utah’s unique Olympic legacy and international partnerships, the center will provide rigorous research, actionable policy recommendations and collaborative engagement to maximize positive outcomes while minimizing costs and risks. The mission of the center will be to encourage research into measuring and communicating social, environmental and economic impacts of hosting Olympic Games; protecting athletes’ health from environmental exposure; and creating an enduring and impactful legacy of hosting Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. The establishment of this center positions the U to lead critical research on the Games’ impact on our communities, while fostering collaboration with other Olympic host sites and research institutions around the world. The center will work to position the U as a global leader in Olympic research—a hub where economic insights, environmental science, business ethics and sustainability expertise intersect to shape the future of international sport and mega-event hosting. The Olympic Center for Societal Impact will have no designated budget line within the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences at this time. However, there will be “in-kind” resources that will enable the center to serve its mission, including staff and academic leadership time and effort, as well as operational expenses provided by University Marketing and Communications, the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Wilkes Center and the Gardner Institute.

President Randall offered additional comments, and members of the Board of Trustees asked questions prior to the motion to approve.

A copy of the supporting materials are included as Appendix XIX with the official minutes of this meeting and can be found online (in BoardDocs) or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

Motion to approve creation of the Olympics Center for Societal Impact Center by Curt Doman, second by Jamie Sorenson. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Curt Doman, Katie Eccles, Christena Huntsman, Karen Marriott, Alex Rose, Randy Shumway, Jamie Sorenson

Action: 3.05 – City Centre (175 E 400 S) Sale-Leaseback

Jeff Labrum, Chief Operating Officer presented item 3.05.

In June 2024, the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of the City Centre building in downtown Salt Lake City, along the Trax line. In January 2026, the Department of Games moved into the part of the space. Moving this department facilitates opportunities for partnerships and student transition into the workforce as there are current gaming tenants in the building. In March of 2026, the President’s Senior Leadership Team and Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees reviewed the Foundation purchasing the City Centre building and the University of Utah leaseback.

Summary of transaction:

- University of Utah agrees to a credit tenant lease of the entire City Centre Building with the Foundation – ~\$4.6M/year; net of commercial tenants, once stabilized, ~\$2M/year
- Foundation purchases the City Centre building from the University - ~\$38M

-Foundation leases and operates the building with a mix of commercial and University tenants – commercial tenants offset the University lease cost; University leases space for academic programs (i.e., gaming) in the building at 25% market rate discount

President Randall and members of the Board of Trustees offered additional comments prior to the motion to approve.

A copy of the supporting material is included as Appendix XX with the official minutes of this meeting and can be found online (in BoardDocs) or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

Motion to approve City Centre sale-leaseback by Curt Doman, second by Karen Marriott. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Curt Doman, Katie Eccles, Christena Huntsman, Karen Marriott, Alex Rose, Randy Shumway, Jamie Sorenson

CHAIR'S REPORT

Report: 5:01 – Current Events and Announcements

Chair Eccles congratulated the Ski team for its 18th national championship at the Soldier Hallow Nordic Center in Midway. This gives Utah six of the last seven NCAA titles all under head coach Fredrik Landsteadt, who was named Coach of the Year at the Governor's State of Sports Awards.

The gymnastics team won its second consecutive Big 12 Conference championship this month, and its seventh consecutive conference championship.

Chair Eccles reminded Trustees of the Wednesday, April 29th Honorary Degree Recipients dinner.

Chair Eccles thanked those Trustees who invested their time in attending the Association of Governing Boards Conference in Denver. Trustee Curt Doman shared highlights from the conference.

Report: 5:02 – Resolution of Appreciation

Chair Eccles recognized ASUU President Trustee Rose, for his service to the University and the student body. Trustee Jamie Sorenson read the resolution, noting the accomplishments during his tenure. Maddi Dahl and Auzja Morse, ASUU Vice Presidents, were also recognized for their service and leadership. President Randall and Vice President for Student Affairs Lori McDonald commented on their appreciation working with Trustee Rose during the past year.

A copy of the resolution is included as Appendix XXI with the official minutes of this meeting and can be found online (in BoardDocs) or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Report: 6.01 – Administration Report

President Randall noted that the Sorenson Center for Medical Innovation Building dedication is today and highlighted the Bench to Bedside program that occurred the night before.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Mitzi Montoya highlighted the Financial Wellness Center's work during tax season and Utah Games' expansion with the City Center facility.

Executive Vice President for Health Sciences Bob Carter highlighted new leaders, Match Day for the class of 2026, and recent faculty and staff recognitions.

The full administrative report is included as Appendix XXII with the official minutes of this meeting and can be found online (in BoardDocs) or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

ASUU UPDATE

Report: 7:01 – ASUU Report

Trustee Alex Rose shared an update on ASUU's current plans and activities and introduced Erica Stringham, incoming ASUU president. Stringham gave an overview of her administration's vision and goals for the upcoming academic year.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXIII with the official minutes of this meeting and can be found online (in BoardDocs) or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

ACADEMIC SENATE

Report: 8.01 – Academic Senate Report

Dr. Richard Preiss, president of the Academic Senate, shared an updated on the Senate's recent meeting.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXIV with the official minutes of this meeting and can be found online (in BoardDocs) or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

STAFF COUNCIL

Report: 9.01 – Staff Council Report

Allie Menzdorf, president of Staff Council, shared updates and referred Trustees to the Staff Council's report.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXV with the official minutes of this meeting and can be found online (in BoardDocs) or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

UNIVERSITY FOCUS

Report: 4.01 – University Focus – Value of Higher Education

Natalie Gochnour, Special Advisor to the President and Director of the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute and Associate Dean of the David Eccles School of Business presented the University Focus.

Director Gochnour reviewed the report from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute which summarized the significant benefits of higher education in Utah.

A copy of the materials are included as Appendix XXVI with the official minutes of this meeting and can be found online (in BoardDocs) or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

INFORMATION AGENDA

Information: 11.01 – UUHC Financial Pulse

Information: 11.02– Sponsored Projects Report

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXVII - XXVIII with the official minutes of this meeting and can be found online (in BoardDocs) or through the Office of the Secretary to the University.

ADJOURN

Resolution: Chair Eccles recommended a motion to adjourn the open meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Curt Doman, second by Alex Rose. Final Resolution: Motion Approved. Aye: Curt Doman, Katie Eccles, Karen Marriott, Alex Rose, Randy Shumway, Jamie Sorenson

At 10:52 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting will be June 9, 2026.

Signed by: Christopher Nelson

Date approved: 10 June 2026