

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
April 9, 2024

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Katie Eccles (Vice-Chair)	J. Steve Price
Christian Gardner (Chair)	Bassam Salem
Jack O'Leary	Randy Shumway
David Parkin	

EXCUSED

Maria Garciaz  
Glenn Seninger  
Jim Sorenson

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Cathy Anderson	Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Administrative Services
Amy Choate	Director, PR/Communications, Academic Affairs
Brett Eden	Director, Operations & Logistics, Auxiliary Services
Shanti Deemyad	President, Academic Senate
Michael Good	Senior Vice President, Health Sciences
Chase Hagood	Sr. Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs
Mark Harlan	Athletics Director
Jeff Herring	Chief Human Resources Officer
Steve Hess	Chief Information Officer
Teresa Kehl	Special Assistant to the President
Jeff Labrum	Chief Operating Officer
Laura Marks	Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Lori McDonald	Vice President, Student Affairs
Melody Murdock	Director, PR/Communications
Mitzi Montoya	Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Chris Nelson	Chief University Relations Officer & Secretary to the University
Jason Perry	Vice President, Government Relations
Taylor Randall	President
Jenn Reed	Associate Vice President, Auxiliary Services
Erin Rothwell	Vice President, Research
Jim Russell	Associate Vice President, Facilities
Laura Snow	Special Advisor to the President
Andrea Thomas	Chief Experience Officer
David Thomas	President, University of Utah Staff Council
Reese Vedder	Associate Director, Naming Recognition & Compliance, U Advancement
Phyllis Vetter	Vice President and General Counsel
Danny Wall	Administrative Director, Real Estate, Real Estate Administration
Rebecca Walsh	Director, PR/Communications
Karen West	Liaison to the Board of Trustees
Marie Wintress	President-elect, University of Utah Staff Council
Shawn Wood	Manager, PR/Communications

Heidi Woodbury Vice President for Institutional Advancement

OTHERS ATTENDING

Julie Hartley Associate Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES

Joe Boyden ASUU President-elect

Jamie Sorenson President-elect, University of Utah Board of Governors

**CALL TO ORDER**

Information: 1.01 – Call to Order

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Cleone Peterson Eccles Alumni House, Sorenson Legacy Foundation Boardroom. Chair Christian Gardner welcomed Trustees and others in attendance. He excused Trustees Maria Garciaz, Glenn Seninger and Jim Sorenson who were unable to attend.

**GENERAL CONSENT**

Action (Consent): 2.01 – Minutes of the March 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Board of Trustees

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

Action (Consent): 2.03 – Sponsored Projects Report (Appendix II)

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

Action (Consent): 2.05 – Report of Investments Portfolio for the Month of February (Appendix IV)

Action (Consent): 2.06 – Academic Unit Change – College of Science, College of Mines and Earth Sciences Merger, with Approved New College Charter (Appendix V)

Action (Consent): 2.07 – Combined Degree Program – English Teaching B.A. and Educational Psychology M.Ed (Appendix VI)

Action (Consent): 2.08 – Discontinue Certificate – Data Center Engineering Certificate (Appendix VII)

Action (Consent): 2.09 – Discontinue Graduate Certificate – Geographic Information Science (Appendix VIII)

Action (Consent): 2.10 – Discontinue Program – MS Biology Teaching Program (Appendix IX)

Action (Consent): 2.11 – Discontinue Program – Geography Emphases (Appendix X)

Action (Consent): 2.12 – Discontinue Program – Sustainability Initiatives (Appendix XI)

Action (Consent): 2.13 – Dual/Combined Degrees – BA/BS with MED Educational Psychology (Appendix XII)

Action (Consent): 2.14 – Graduate Certificate – Advanced General Dentistry in Endodontics (Appendix XIII)

Action (Consent): 2.15 – Graduate Certificate – Resilient Energy (Appendix XIV)

Action (Consent): 2.16 – Program Change – Biology Emphases Restructure (Appendix XV)

Action (Consent): 2.17 – Program Changes – Health and Kinesiology (Appendix XVI)

Action (Consent): 2.18 – Revise – Policy 3-163 Trademark & Licensing Policy (Appendix XVII)

Action (Consent): 2.19 – Revise Faculty Leave Policies – Phase I (Appendix XVIII)

Action (Consent): 2.20 – Capital Facilities Projects for Consent (Appendix XIX)

Prior to the motion Trustee Randy Shumway highlighted a number of efficiencies and work force alignment within several of the academic items listed on the General Consent section of the agenda (items 2.06 – 2.17).

**Motion to approve the Consent Calendar, by David Parkin, second by Randy Shumway. Final Resolution: Motion Approved.** Aye: Katie Eccles, Christian Gardner, Jack O’Leary, David Parkin, J. Steve Price, Bassam Salem, Randy Shumway

Background materials are included in the Appendices (as noted above) and are on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

## **ACTION AGENDA**

Action: 3.01 – Naming – James LeVoy Sorenson Center for Medical Innovation

Heidi Woodbury, VP Institutional Advancement, presented item 3.01.

Sorenson Legacy Foundation: In recognition of a \$22,000,000 gift from the Sorenson Legacy Foundation, the University of Utah would like to name the Center for Medical Innovation Building the "James LeVoy Sorenson Center for Medical Innovation" in their honor. A fully executed gift agreement is in place, and the gift will be paid in full by January 26, 2026.

**Motion to approve the item 3.01 by Steve Price second by Randy Shumway Final Resolution: Motion Approved.** Aye: Katie Eccles, Christian Gardner, Jack O’Leary, David Parkin, J. Steve Price, Bassam Salem, Randy Shumway

## **UNIVERSITY FOCUS**

Report: 4.01 – University Focus – Research

Vice President for Research, Dr. Erin Rothwell, noted she was grateful for the opportunity to present the VP for Research’s Strategic Plan. VP Rothwell provided background on the University of Utah Research Office, gave a detailed presentation on the research enterprise and responded to questions from Trustees. Summary information is noted below:

#### Background –

- 83,000 employees - research activities funds for jobs
- \$248M in salaries are supported by research
- \$28M spent in Utah for research-related goods and services
- \$32M in state and local taxes from salaries supported by research

Last year the U reached a milestone of \$768M in research funding with more than 3,000 funding awards to over 1,100 researchers. Most of the funding came from agencies such as National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, and National Institutes of Health. In the future, VP Rothwell noted the U will need to diversify its research portfolio.

The U has set a goal of \$1B in research funding, with a focus on securing large-scale grants with societal impact.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XX with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

#### Report: 5.01 – Current Events

Chair Gardner noted the following current event:

- Honorary Degree Recipients dinner on Wednesday May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Eccles Alumni House
- Red Butte Garden Outdoor Concert Series – Watch for the Red Butte summer concert series lineup announcement on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> and we will follow up with those of you interested in ticket information.
- Invited – Jack O'Leary to share his experience from the recent AGB conference for trustees.  
Jack's take aways and lessons learned:
  - AGB's keynote speaker, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, spoke on the value of higher education – Jack also noted he would be an amazing Commencement Speaker
  - Mergers and acquisition of small campuses – how to combine and share resources
  - Higher Education can be a national strategic resource
  - Networked with other student body trustees

#### Report: 5.02 – Resolution of Appreciation – Jack O'Leary

Chair Gardner recognized Trustee Jack O'Leary, ASUU President, for his service to the University and the student body. Trustee Steve Price read the resolution noting the accomplishments during his tenure. Chloe Shewell and Parker Madsen, ASUU Vice Presidents, were also recognized for their service and leadership.

A copy of the resolution is included as Appendix XXI with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Report: 6.01 – Honors and Awards to Members of the University Community, Distinguished Visitors and Research

President Randall referred Trustees to the written report included in the agenda materials.

A copy of the items is included as Appendix XXII with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

### Report 6.02 – Current Events and Update

President Randall noted the following:

- **COMMENCEMENT -**  
The campus-wide General Commencement is in person, Thurs. May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 PM. Highlights include student speaker, keynote address from Eboo Patel and honorary degrees awarded to Pamela J. Atkinson, Catherine Roper Meldrum and Steven G. Parker.
- **COLLEGE CONVOCATIONS -**  
Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your willingness to participate and represent the Board at these convocations. Karen will deliver information packets as the date approaches, so you'll have logistical and other detailed information for the convocations you are attending.
- Introduced David Thomas as this year's president of the U's Staff Advisory Council. The council is seeking greater visibility and recognition of the important role staff play at the university. Staff Council will start to share monthly written updates with the trustees – similar to what ASUU and the academic senate share as a way to keep trustees up to speed with the work of the council.
- Chris Nelson, Chief University Relations Officer shared that under the direction of the Utah Board of Higher Education, a strike team made up of communications personnel from USHE institutions has developed a coordinated, state-wide messaging platform to inform and inspire Utahns about the value of higher education.

## SENIOR VICE PRESIDENTS REPORTS

### Report: 7.01 – Academic Affairs Report

Sr. Vice President Montoya noted the following:

### **New dean of business school is named**

Kurt Dirks has accepted an offer to serve as dean of the David Eccles School of Business. Dirks is the Bank of America Professor of Managerial Leadership and director of the Bauer Leadership Center at Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis (WashU). He will begin his new role on July 1, 2024.

<https://attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/kurt-dirks-named-dean-of-the-david-eccles-school-of-business/>

### **Division of Games is No. 1 and No. 2**

The University of Utah's Division of Games landed the #1 spot worldwide for public institutions for its undergraduate programs and #2 for its graduate programs, based on the 2024 Princeton Review rankings released last week. With this accolade, the University of Utah's Games Division stands at the forefront of game development education, inspiring future generations of artists, designers, programmers, and storytellers.

<https://games.utah.edu/news/princeton-review-2024/>

### **Manish Parashar wins 2024 CRA Distinguished Service Award**

The Computing Research Association (CRA) has selected Manish Parashar as the recipient of the 2024 CRA Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his multi-faceted and highly impactful service to the computing research community. [The CRA Distinguished Service Award](#), now in its 36th year, recognizes service in the areas of government affairs, professional societies, publications or conferences, and leadership that has a major impact on computing research.

<https://cra.org/crn/2024/03/manish-parashar-wins-the-2024-cra-distinguished-service-award/>

### **New sustainability engine is launched**

The U is increasing its efforts to support sustainability initiatives. The Office of the Vice President for Research announced a new sustainability engine to bring together faculty, communities, governments and industry to tackle the societal challenge of water. The Peak Water Sustainability Engine will support the development of water innovations and technology, driving interdisciplinary research with a holistic watershed approach. The launch of Peak Water aligns with the 1U4U seed grant topic for 2024, "The Future of Sustainability."

<https://attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/university-of-utah-launches-peak-water-sustainability-engine/>

### **FORGE receives new U.S. Dept. of Energy grant**

The Utah Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) recently received just over \$7 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to continue its research. This funding is earmarked for critical next step activities in the creation of an Enhanced Geothermal System. Beginning in April, FORGE will be conducting a large, industry-scale stimulation to connect its injection and production wells.

### **New rankings released today**

Hot off the presses, U.S. News and World Report has released new official rankings. Some highlights:

- The full-time MBA program in the David Eccles School of Business rose 10 spots to an overall ranking of No. 38, and rose 8 spots to a public ranking of No. 15. The part-time program rose 4 spots to an overall ranking of No. 17, and one spot to a public ranking of 11.
- The S.J. Quinney College of Law received its highest ranking yet as No. 28 among all law schools and No. 11 among public law schools. The Stegner environmental program is also No. 7 overall, and No. 3 among public universities.

[www.usnews.com/grad](http://www.usnews.com/grad)

### **National Science Foundation announces fellowship awardees**

The National Science Foundation announced its 2024 Graduate Research Fellowship Program awardees, with 22 students with connections to the U receiving the award out of nearly 14,000 national applications. An additional eight students who are either currently at the U or received their baccalaureate degree at the U were listed as honorable mentions. As the oldest graduate fellowship of its kind, the GRFP has a long history of selecting recipients who achieve high levels of success in their future academic and professional careers. The reputation of the GRFP follows recipients and often helps them become life-long leaders that contribute significantly to both scientific innovation and teaching.

<https://www.nsfgrfp.org/about/about-grfp/>

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXIII with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

### **Report: 6.02 – Health Sciences Report**

In a written report to the Board, Sr. Vice President Good noted the following:

#### **West High School Clinic Celebrates Grand Opening**

- The Department of Pediatrics partnered with the Salt Lake City School District and Salt Lake Education Foundation to open the state's first high-school-based clinic at West High School on March 20, 2024. The clinic provides integrated physical, mental, and behavioral care for all high schoolers in the SLC School District. It's also a adolescent medicine training site for U of U Health primary care physicians

#### **“Love, Your Mind” Campaign Partners with Sesame Street**

- Sesame Workshop, the global impact nonprofit behind Sesame Street, launched a new public service announcement (PSA) video with the Ad Council for their “Love, Your Mind” campaign developed with Huntsman Mental Health Institute. The video features Elmo and his friends highlighting the benefits of humming for people’s overall emotional well-being.

#### **University of Utah Makes a Splash at 2024 Film Festivals**

- “Winding Path,” a U of U Health-produced documentary featuring a U medical student and “Between Earth and Sky,” a documentary featuring U biologist Nalni Nadkarni, played the Martha’s Vineyard

Festival. "Winding Path" also played at the Sonoma Film Festival and Maoriland Film Festival in New Zealand.

### HS Academics

- Graduating medical students at the Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine participated in nationwide Match Day on March 15, 2024. Students learned which specialties, and which hospitals or care centers, they have matched to for their residency training. Key Match Day stats from the University of Utah:
    - 97.3% match rate
    - Students matched to 89 programs, in 24 specialties, across 34 states
    - 37 students matched into primary care specialties
- 38 students matched into Utah residencies

### Awards, Grants & Recognition

- Becker's Hospital Review named Mary Beckerle, PhD, CEO of Huntsman Cancer Institute and Associate Vice President of Cancer Affairs, one of 196+ women hospital presidents and CEOs to know in 2024.
- Deborah Yurgelun-Todd, PhD, was named a Top Female Scientist in the U.S. for 2023. By Research.com. She is a professor of psychiatry and associate director of the Mental Research, Education, and Clinical Centers for the Salt Lake City VA Health Care System. This is the second year in a row that she made the list, which is based on the number of peer reviewed publications and citations throughout the scientist's career: 424 publications and 33,647 citations in her case.
- Wendy Hobson-Rohrer, MD, MSPH, Associate Vice President for Health Sciences Education, was selected as Program Chair-elect for the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting (PAS), the largest international academic gathering for pediatrics. This leadership role reflects her expertise and stature in the global community.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXIV with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

### ASUU UPDATE

#### Report: 8.01 – ASUU Report

Trustee Jack O'Leary referred Trustees to his written report and shared an update on ASUU's current plans and activities.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXV with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.



## ACADEMIC SENATE

### Report: 9.01 – Academic Senate Report

Dr. Shanti Deemyad referred Trustees to her written report and shared an update on the Academic Senate.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXVI with the official minutes of this meeting and is on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

## INFORMATION AGENDA

### Information: 9.01 – University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics (UUHC) Financial Pulse

Chair Gardner referenced the UUHC Financial Pulse and invited questions. None were raised.

A copy of the report is included as Appendix XXVII with the official minutes of this meeting on file in the office of the Secretary to the University.

## ADJOURN

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

At 10:26 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on May 14, 2024.

**Motion to approve by Bassam Salem second by Randy Shumway. Final Resolution: Motion Approved.**

Aye: Katie Eccles, Christian Gardner, Jack O'Leary, David Parkin, J. Steve Price, Bassam Salem, Randy Shumway

Signed by: Christopher Nelson

Date approved: 21 May 2024