



**DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE OCTOBER 2024 BOARD MEETING.**

**Utah Board of Higher Education  
Virtual Meeting  
Friday, August 30, 2024**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES**

**Board Members Present**

Amanda Covington, Chair  
Steve Neeleman, Vice Chair  
Javier Chávez Jr.  
Sharon Eubank  
Danny Ipson  
Tina Marriott  
Cydni Tetro  
Aaron Skonnard  
Muskan Walia

**Board Members Absent**

Jon Cox

**Office of the Commissioner**

Geoffrey Landward, Commissioner  
Rachelle Ackley, Program Director, Talent Ready Utah  
Alison Adams, General Counsel and Board Secretary  
Taylor Adams, Associate Commissioner of Student Affairs  
Sam Aird, Talent Ready Utah Specialist  
Amy Andre, Program Manager of WBL & State Apprenticeship Intermediary  
Trisha Dugovic, Director of Communication  
Brynn Fronk, Executive Assistant to the Utah Board of Higher Education  
Julie Hartley, Associate Commissioner of Academic Education  
Vic Hockett, Associate Commissioner of Talent Ready Utah  
Carrie Mayne, Chief Economist  
Katie Mazzie, Assistant Commissioner of Strategic and Government Affairs  
Jimmy McDonough, Program Manager of Higher Education Initiatives  
Natalie Reidhead, Administrative Assistant  
Nate Talley, Deputy Commissioner and CFO  
Xitlalli Villanueva, Program Specialist, Talent Ready Utah  
Kim Ziebarth, Associate Commissioner of Technical Education

**Institutional Presidents Present**

Mindy Benson, Southern Utah University  
Darin Brush, Davis Technical College  
Elizabeth Cantwell, Utah State University  
Chad Campbell, Bridgerland Technical College  
Clay Christensen, Mountainland Technical College  
Paul Hacking, Tooele Technical College  
Stacey McIff, Snow College  
Brad Mortensen, Weber State University

Greg Peterson, Salt Lake Community College  
Taylor Randall, University of Utah  
Jordan Rushton, Dixie Technical College  
Jim Taggart, Ogden-Weber Technical College  
Astrid Tuminez, Utah Valley University  
Courtney White, Utah Tech University (interim)  
Brennan Wood, Southwest Technical College

**Other Guests**

Kyla Allred, Vice President of Executive Relations, Uintah Basin Technical College  
Lucy Andre, Chief of Staff and General Counsel, Stadler Rail  
Kathy Bennett, Practice Director, Tanner Clinic  
Laura Deshazo, CTE Director, Salt Lake City School District  
Berton Earnshaw, Machine Learning Fellow, Recursion  
Elizabeth Grant, Superintendent of Schools, Salt Lake City School District  
Kelsee Grow, Medical Assistant, Ogden-Weber Technical College  
Jordan Hill, Boeing  
Jorge Martinez, Stadler Apprenticeship  
Brad Robeson, Owner and President, Clean Machine  
Jennifer Saunders, Dean, Salt Lake Technical College

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

### **Committee of the Whole**

#### *In Memoriam of Former Commissioner Dave Buhler*

Chair Covington and Commissioner Landward acknowledged Commissioner Buhler's passing and memorialized his life and career at the Utah System of Higher Education. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

#### *New Student Board Member Oath of Office*

Chair Covington introduced the new student Board member, Muskan Walia. Brynn Fronk administered the oath of office to Board member Walia. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

#### *Strategic Plan*

Katie Mazzie shared the feedback and changes made to the vision and mission since the previous Board meeting. She also reviewed the updated draft of the strategic plan. In response to a question from Board member Walia, a phrase will be added to the strategy, "Advance research that supports economic development," to include the quality of life element. At the request of Chair Covington, the mission and vision statement will be added to the beginning of the Board meeting agendas. **Vice Chair Neeleman moved that the Board approve and adopt the strategic plan and authorize the Commissioner's office to publish the finalized version on the USHE website. Board member Marriott seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

#### *Land Acknowledgments*

Commissioner Landward shared that a thoughtful statewide approach to policy around land acknowledgments is needed. He recommended that the Free Expression Advisory Committee review land acknowledgments across the system to develop an approach. Board member Ipson asked if the state has one, which the Commissioner was unaware of but noted that it will be looked into. Board member Ipson also asked if there are institutions that have a statement in place that would be affected. The Commissioner shared that most institutions have one and would be impacted by the policy. Board member Marriott asked for more information about the Free Expression Committee, which Commissioner Landward provided. Some presidents expressed support for a consistent statewide approach. The institutions will continue using their existing land acknowledgments until the new policy is implemented. **Chair Covington moved to direct the Free Expression Committee to review land acknowledgments across the system to ensure uniformity in application and share its recommendations with the Board at the November meeting. Board member Ipson seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

### *Board Priority Dashboard*

Chief Economist Carrie Mayne presented the Board Priority Dashboard. The dashboard will be on the USHE website and updated in real-time. It will be added to the website and ready for the Board's review by the end of the following week. The Board members expressed support and appreciation for the transparency. Vice Chair Neeleman asked how long a completed task will stay on the dashboard. Commissioner Landward suggested highlighting the completed tasks from the year in the yearly report so that the completed tasks can come off the dashboard every year. Board member Ipson asked if KPIs and data associated with current numbers could be added, which Carrie said could be included. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Program Review Dashboard Update*

Carrie Mayne updated the Board on the Program Review Dashboard. The dashboard will have different views to allow for appropriate comparisons so robust decisions can be made. Carrie walked the Board through the different views on the dashboard. She showed a mockup to illustrate the type of data in the built data set. President Randall applauded the approach. He pointed out that limiting the data to students who become employed in Utah does not create an accurate picture of what's happening at the institutions, since some students take jobs out of state. A mechanism is needed to show the whole picture, which would be self-reported data. Carrie agreed and shared that the idea is to use the dashboard as guidance but move into deeper conversations where those accurate highlights could be included. Commissioner Landward asked that the graduate placement be broken down, to which Carrie replied she will look into the census and ask for alignment. Commissioner Landward reminded the group that the dashboard would be used internally to help inform conversations between the Board, legislators, and institutions. Chair Covington asked how the Commissioner's conversations went with legislative leadership. The Commissioner shared that he and Carrie met with them, took their feedback on the dashboard, and made changes. He also noted that legislative leadership likes what they see regarding the dashboard and the timeline. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

### *Consent Calendar*

Vice Chair Neeleman pointed out that in the July 12, 2024, Board meeting minutes, he is listed as making the motion and seconding the motion for *Innovation/Commercialization as a Shared Service* agenda item. **Board member Marriot moved to amend the minutes to accurately reflect who made the motion and the second on that agenda item. Board member Tetro seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

Board member Ipson inquired about the review process in Board Policy R131. The institutions will submit plans for centers, and the Board will then review the plans and align them to what the HB 261 guidance says. The Board will ensure that they are in compliance with the guidance and policy and then take a vote. USHE's compliance office will engage in an ongoing review of campus activities concerning HB 261 and system policies. Board member Walia asked about student enrollment outcome reporting in Board Policy R205. Alison Adams answered that it was addressed in recent Board policy updates including R401 due to transitioning the technical college policies to the main Board policies.

**Vice Chair Neeleman moved to approve the Consent Calendar with amendments already approved. Board member Ipson seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

*Work-Based Learning Initiatives*

*Talent Ready Utah Work-Based Learning Initiatives*

Vic Hockett presented the Talent Ready Utah Work-Based Learning Initiatives agenda item. He spotlighted the importance of work-based learning and Talent Ready Utah's efforts in this area. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

*Work-Based Learning Industry Panel*

Vic Hockett introduced the following panelists, who shared their work-based learning experiences at their companies.

- Brad Robeson, Clean Machine
- Kathy Bennett, Tanner Clinic
- Jordan Hill, Boeing
- Berton Earnshaw, Recursion

This was an information item only; no action was taken.

*TRAC Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship at Stadler Rail*

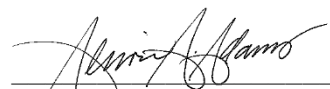
Rachelle Ackley presented the model of the Talent Ready Apprenticeship Connection (TRAC). Stadler Rail's engagement in TRAC was shared by Stadler Rail's Chief of Staff, Lucy Andre. Superintendent Elizabeth Grant and Laura Deshazo from the Salt Lake City School District highlighted how the TRAC program elevated their students' experiences, improved their economic mobility, and highlighted what is next for the district. Jennifer Saunders presented what sets TRAC apart from traditional apprenticeship programs. Student Jorge Martinez shared his experience in the TRAC program. Board member Skonnard asked what the tech industry can do to provide more opportunities. Vic Hockett shared that TRU is in conversation with Silicon Slopes. Board member Ipson asked how students can be better engaged in the process and be aware of opportunities. Vic answered that their teams work with the school districts to understand the timeline and enter into the classrooms. Vice Chair Neeleman inquired about their metrics for success. Vic responded that when they open up a new program and expand with funding, they look at how many seats are opened. They set it up individually under an MOU to ensure they hit metrics. This was an information item only; no action was taken.

**Board member Ipson moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; impending litigation; or the sale of real property. Board member Marriott seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

**Closed Session**

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

  
Alison A. Adams, Secretary

Date Approved: